MINIMUM CARNAGE

YOST • BUNN

MEDINA • PHAM • BROWN • SHALVEY

carnage

MINIMUM CARNAGE

minimum carnage: alpha & omega
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penciler **lan medina**
inkers **karl kesel, cam smith, walden wong, jaime mendoza & bit**
omega epilogue artists **declan shalvey & khoi pham**
color artist **chris sotomayor**
cover artist **clayton crain**

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pencilers **khoi pham** (#10-11)
& **reilly brown** (#10-12)
inkers **tom palmer** (#10-11) with chris sotomayor (#10)
& **terry pallot** (#12)
colorists **edgar delgado** (#10-11) with chris sotomayor (#10)
& **andres mossa** (#12)
cover artist **ryan stegman** with marte gracia

venom #26-27
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artist **declan shalvey**
color artist **lee loughridge**
cover artist **patch zircher** with marte gracia

letterer vc's joe caramagna
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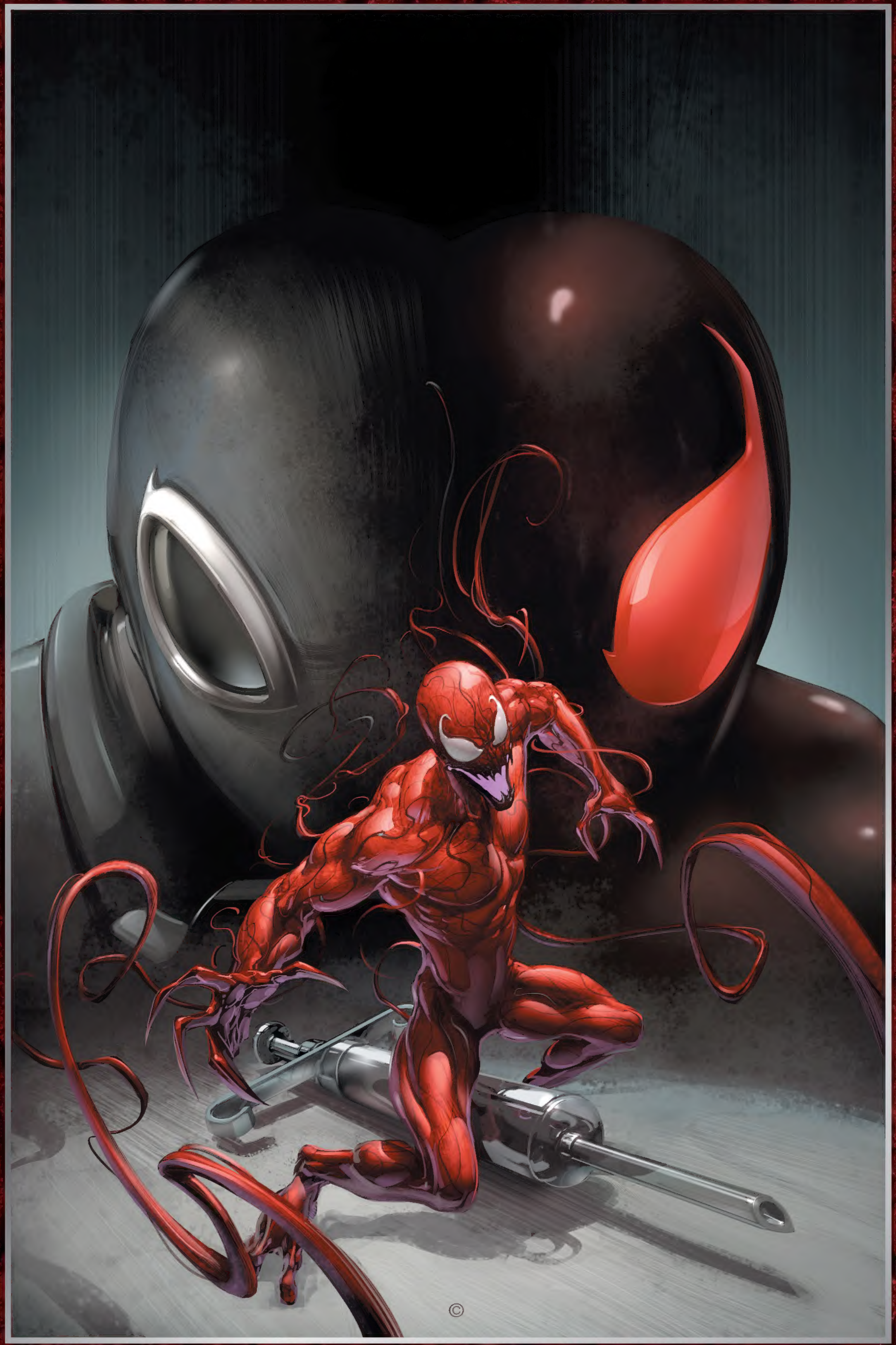
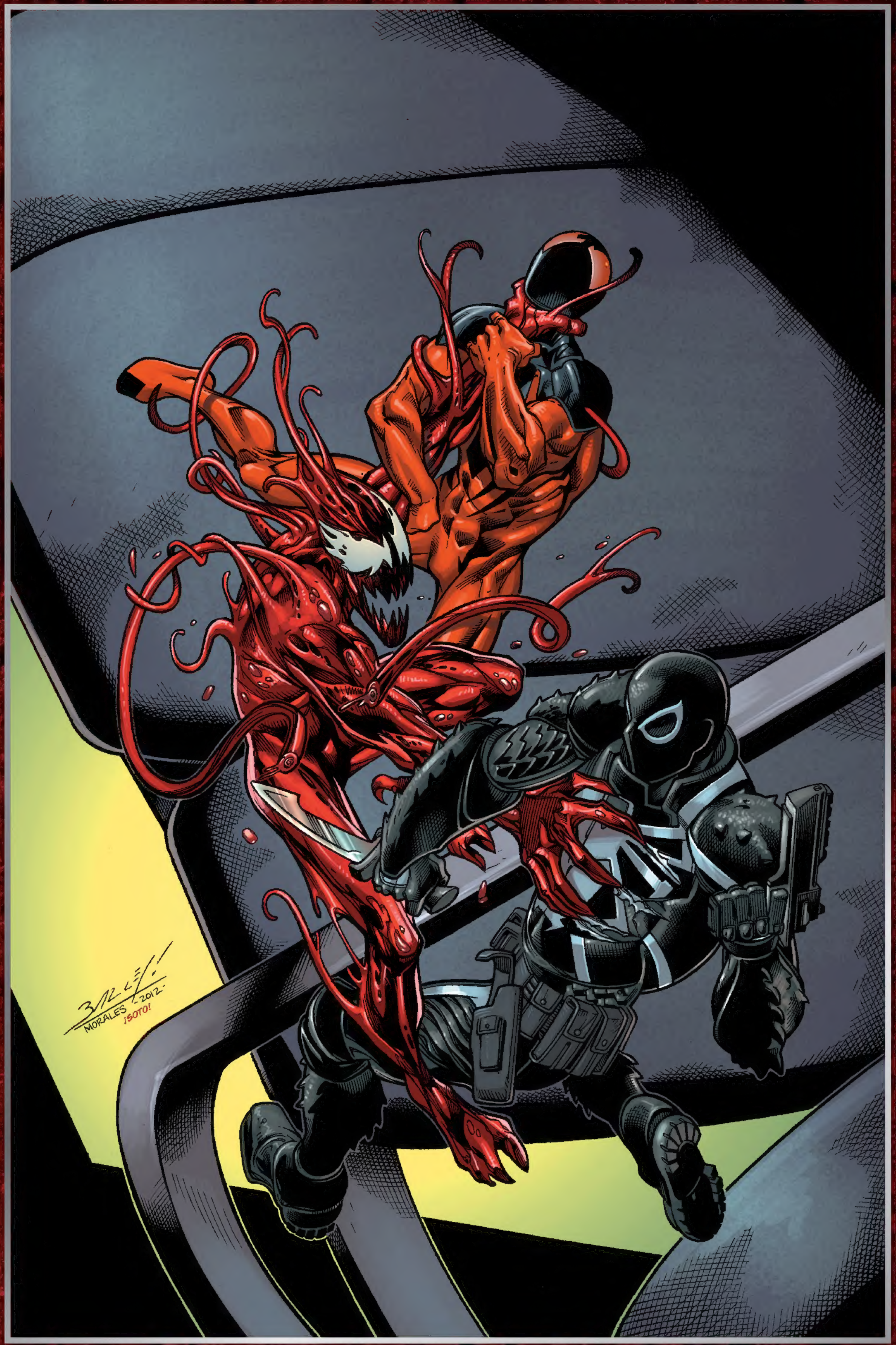


minimum carnage: alpha

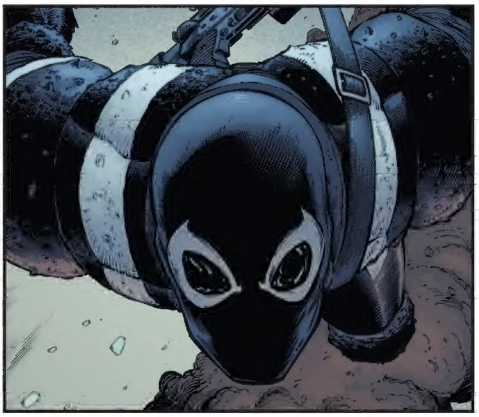


alpha variant by
mark bagley, mark morales & chris sotomayor

MINIMUM carnage

ACT ONE

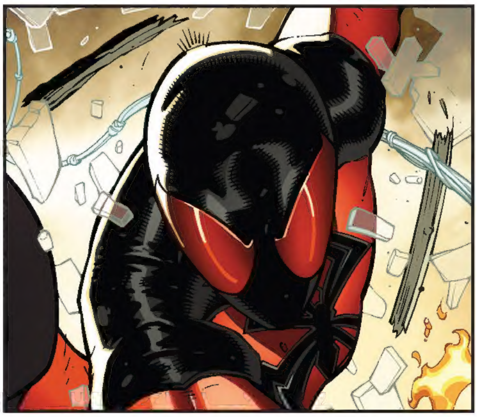
THE PLAYERS:



Art By Tony Moore, Crimelab Studios & John Rauch

Eugene "Flash" Thompson was a high-school-bully-turned war hero, inspired by the Amazing Spider-Man to get his act together. When he lost both legs in combat, his country gave him a chance to serve again, bonding him with the alien parasite suit that grants its host powers similar to Spider-Man. From that day on, he was the Secret Avenger known as...

VENOM

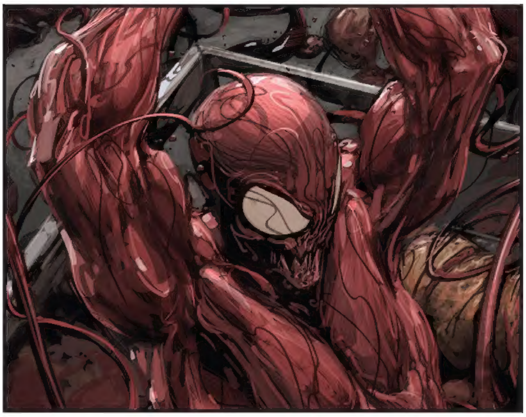


Art By Ryan Stegman, Mike Babinski & Marte Gracia

Kaine was a lab experiment gone wrong, an imperfect genetic clone of Peter Parker, the Amazing Spider-Man.

Dying from the day he was created, Kaine lived a life of violence and villainy until Spider-Man cured him, giving him a second chance at life. Kaine went on the run, and landed in Houston, Texas, where he decided to live up to his heroic legacy as the...

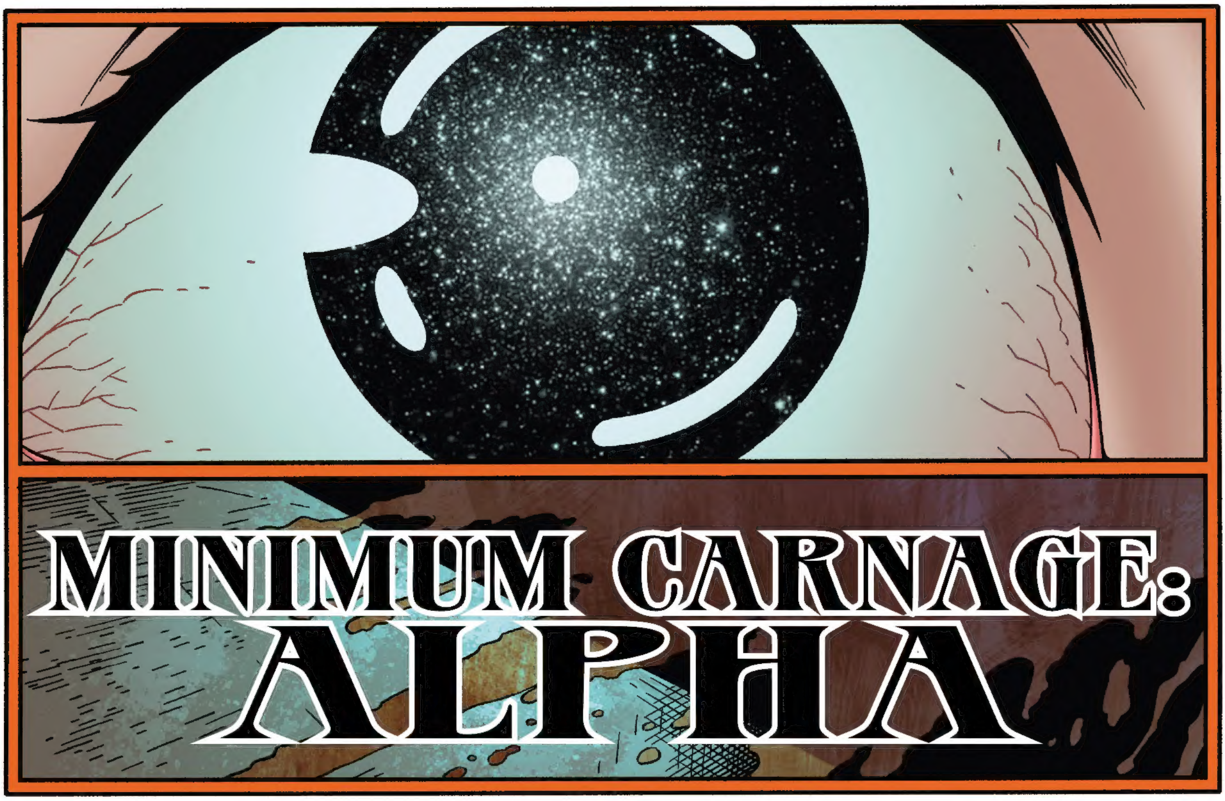
SCARLET SPIDER

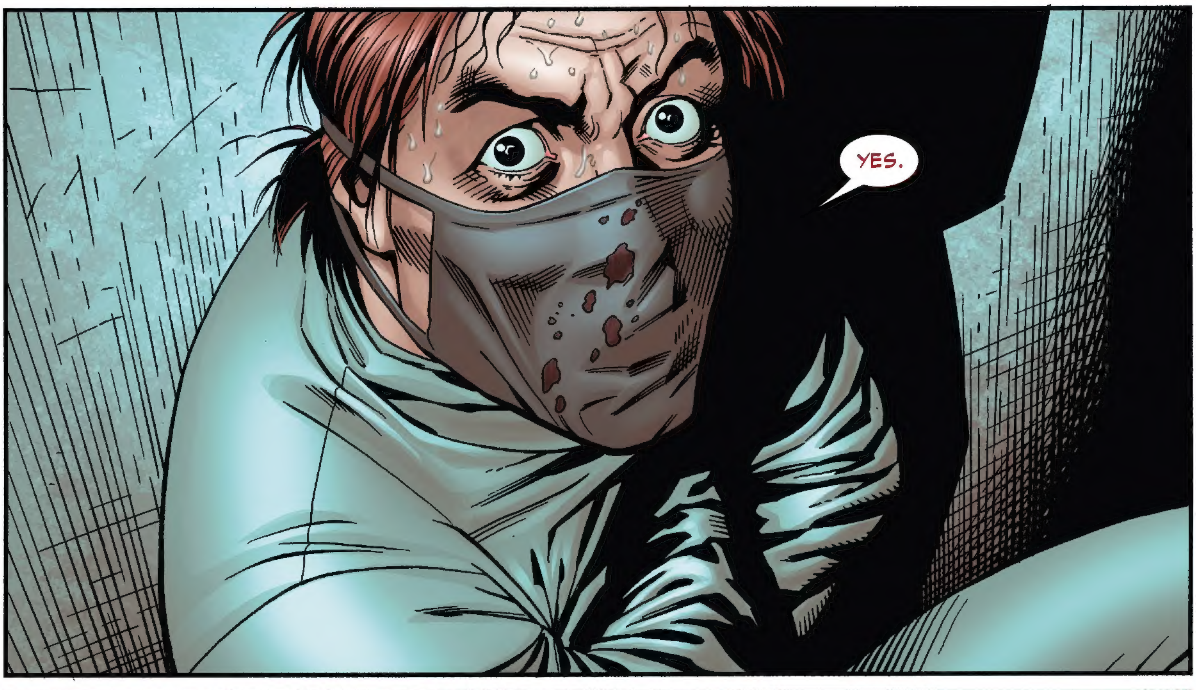


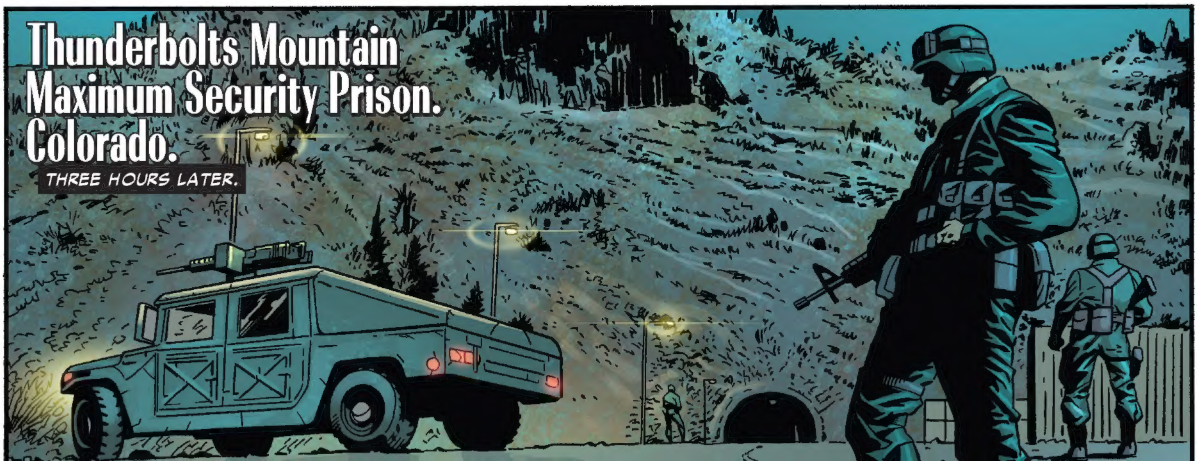
Art By Clayton Crain

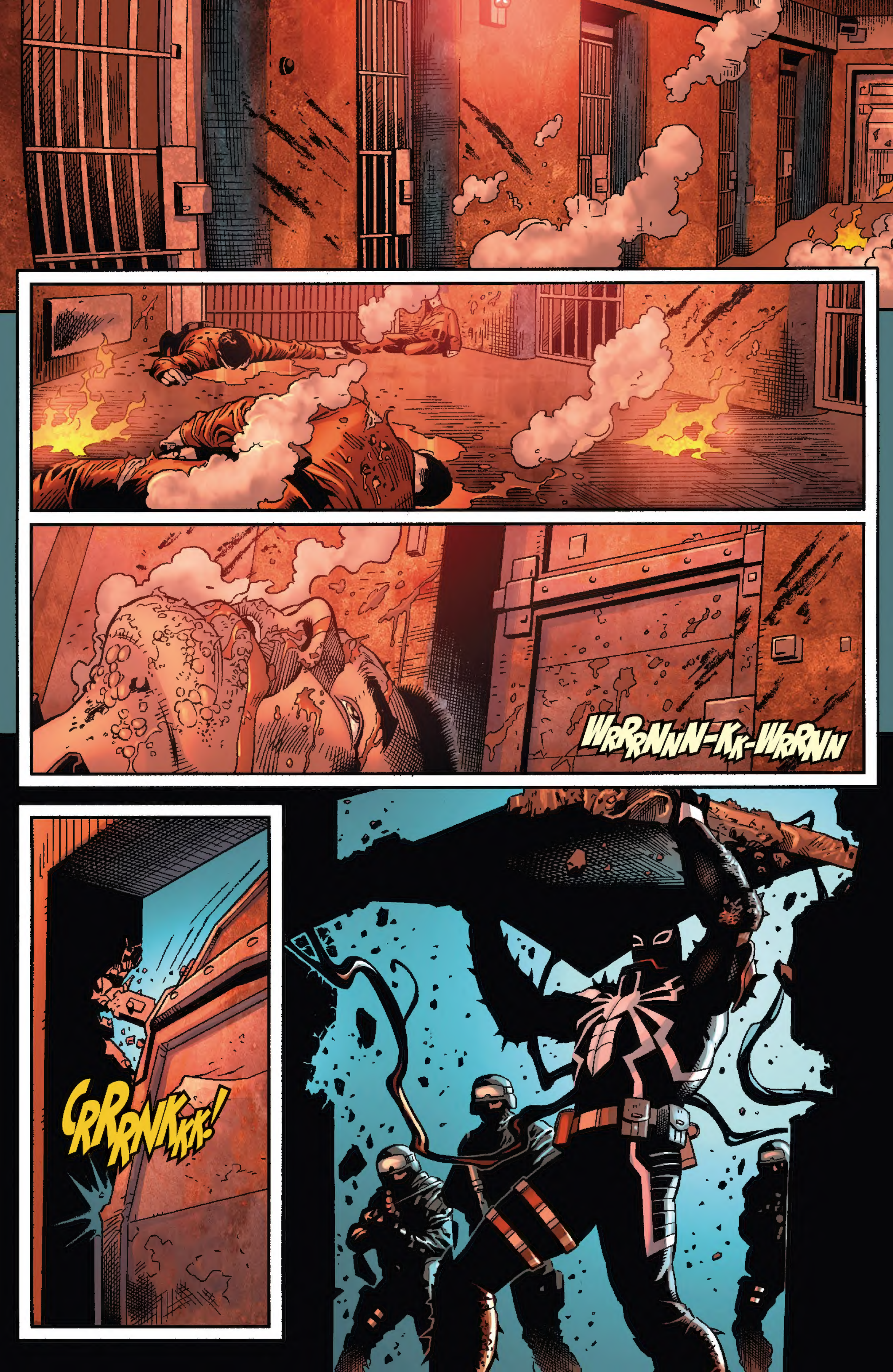
His name is Cletus Kasady. Once upon a time, he was a murderer. Then he managed to get a hold of an alien symbiote suit that bonded with him and gave him incredible power. He used it to kill a lot of people. Recently, he used it to conquer an entire town in Colorado before Venom and the Avengers took him down and locked him up in jail. That never lasts long for Cletus Kasady, the man called...

carnage

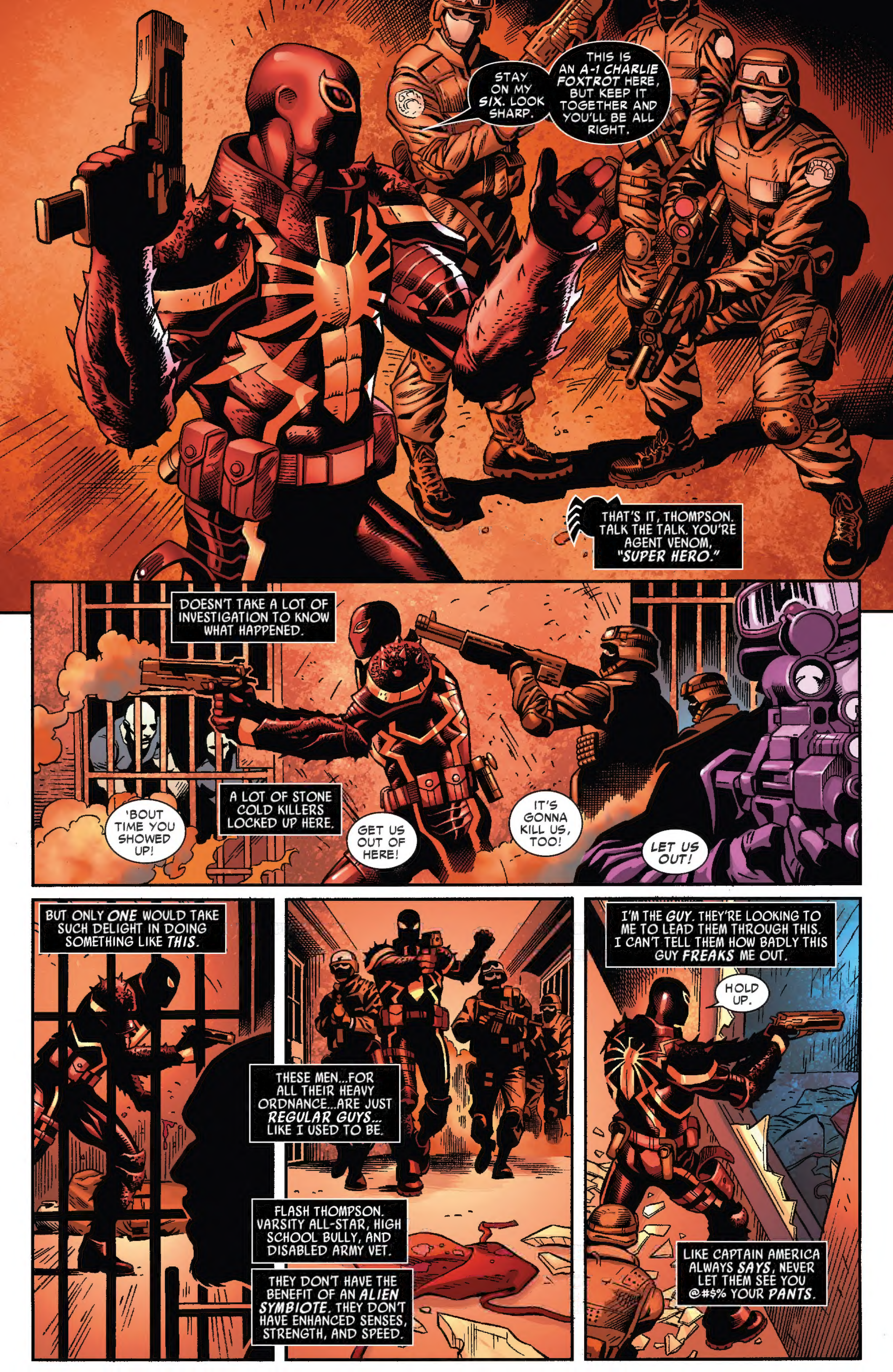

MINIMUM CARNAGE:
ALPHA

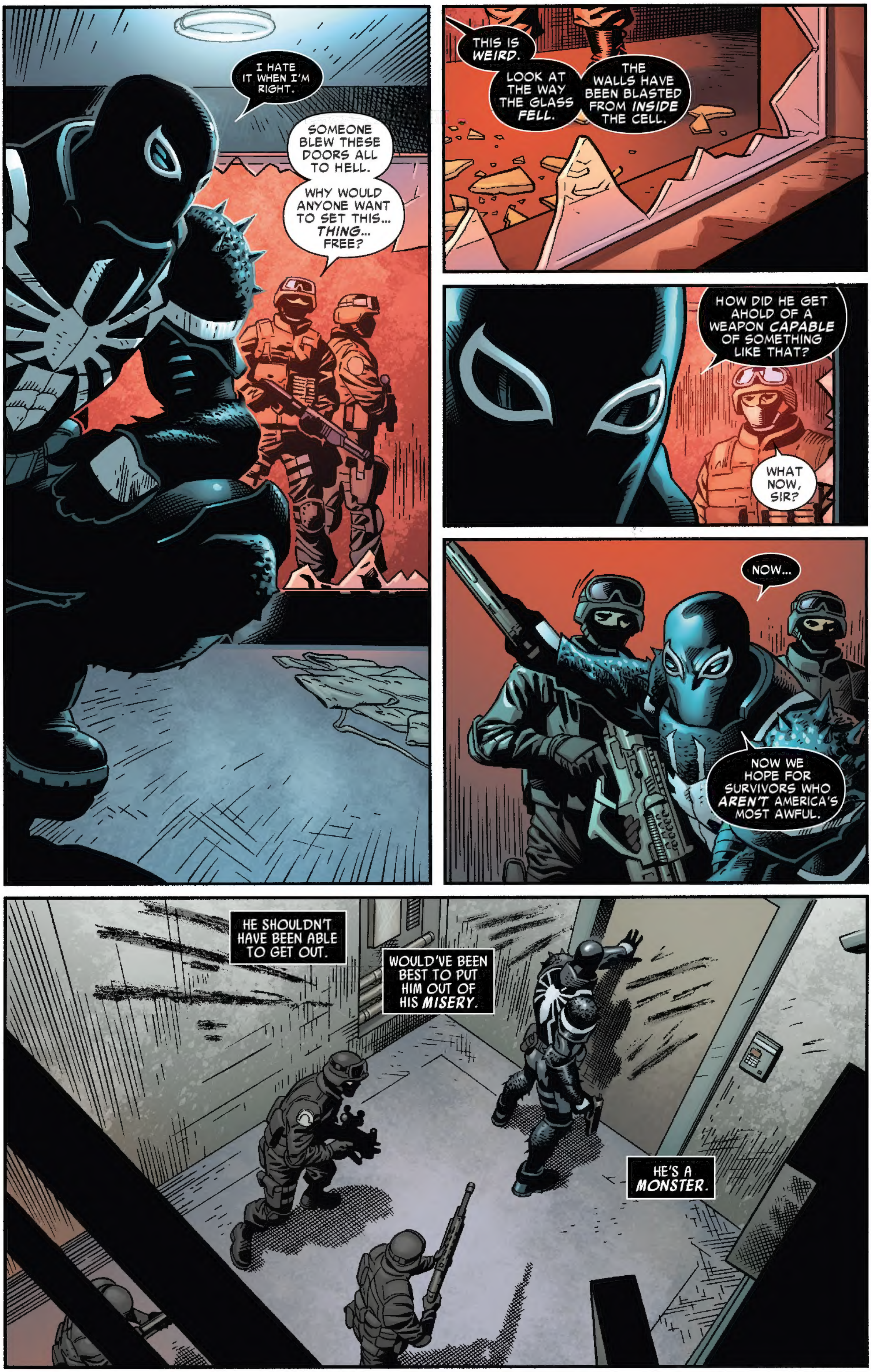

YES.

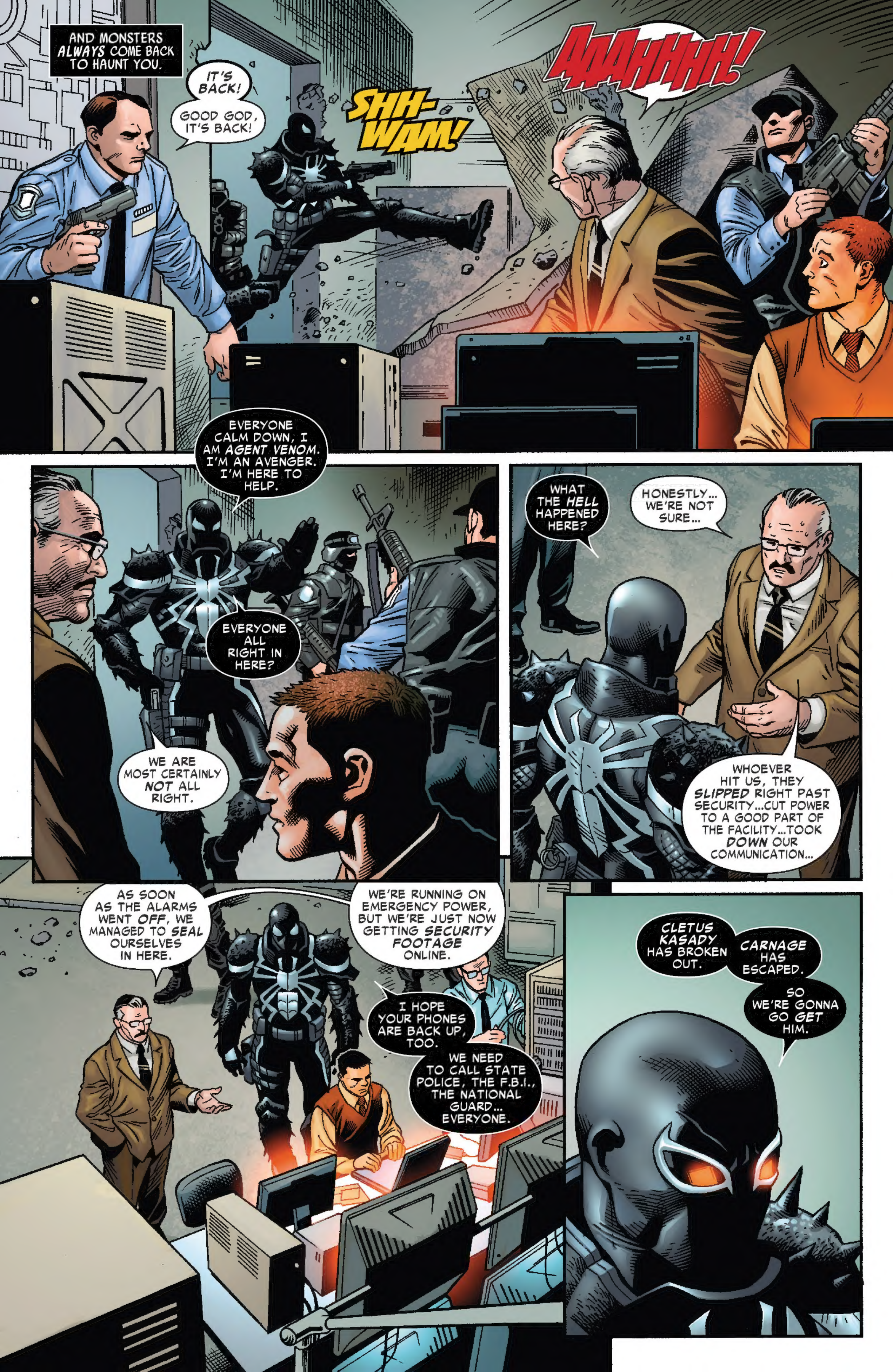

Thunderbolts Mountain
Maximum Security Prison.
Colorado.
THREE HOURS LATER.

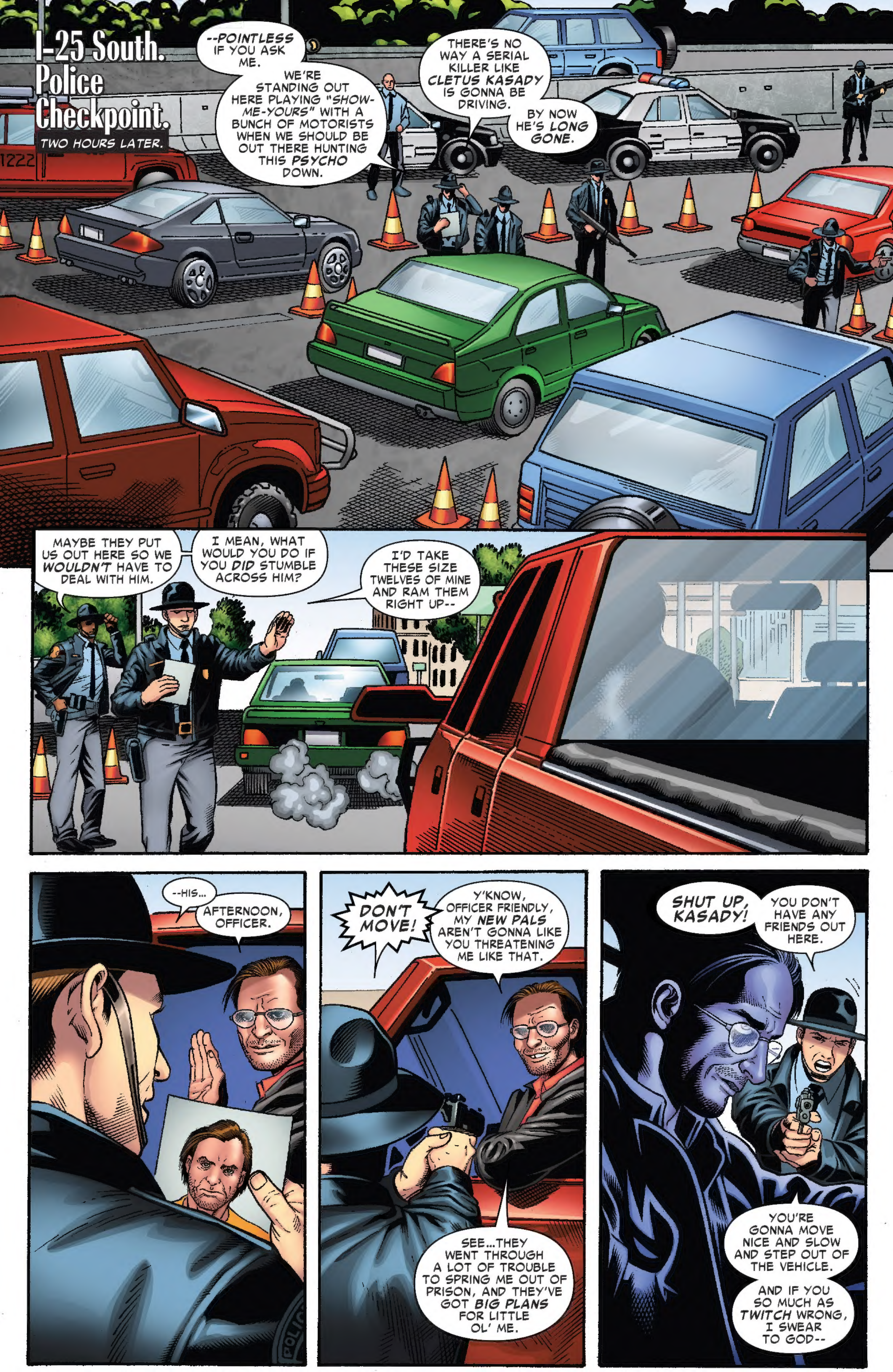


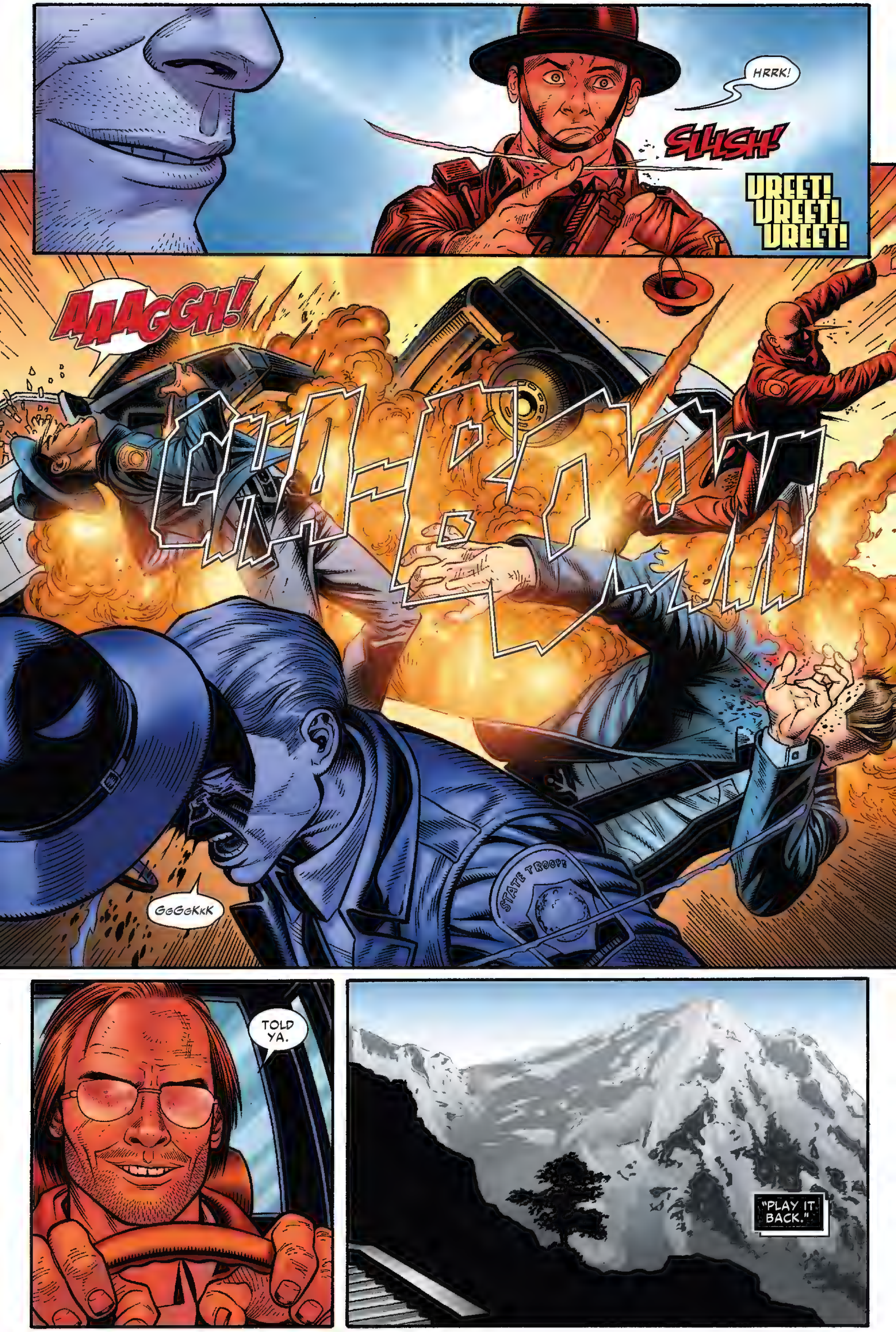
WRRRNNN-KK-WRRNN
CRRRNKKK!

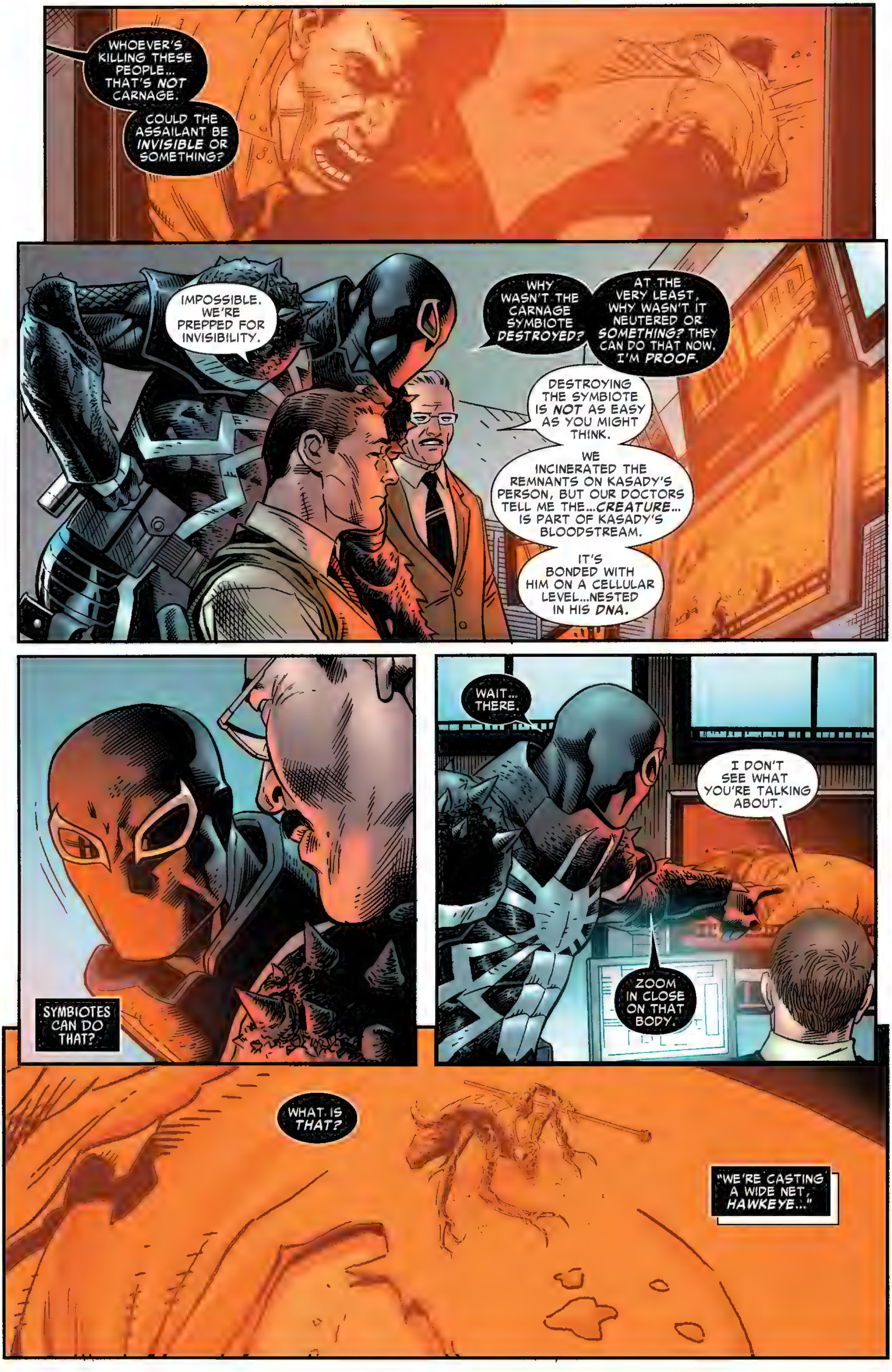

STAY ON MY *SIX*. LOOK SHARP.
THIS IS AN *A-1 CHARLIE FOXTROT* HERE, BUT KEEP IT TOGETHER AND YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
THAT'S IT, THOMPSON. TALK THE TALK. YOU'RE AGENT VENOM, *"SUPER HERO."*
DOESN'T TAKE A LOT OF INVESTIGATION TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
A LOT OF STONE COLD KILLERS LOCKED UP HERE.
'BOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP!
GET US OUT OF HERE!
IT'S GONNA KILL US, TOO!
LET US OUT!
BUT ONLY *ONE* WOULD TAKE SUCH DELIGHT IN DOING SOMETHING LIKE *THIS*.
THESE MEN...FOR ALL THEIR HEAVY ORDNANCE...ARE JUST *REGULAR GUYS*... LIKE I USED TO BE.
FLASH THOMPSON. VARSITY ALL-STAR, HIGH SCHOOL BULLY, AND DISABLED ARMY VET.
THEY DON'T HAVE THE BENEFIT OF AN *ALIEN SYMBIOTE*. THEY DON'T HAVE ENHANCED SENSES, STRENGTH, AND SPEED.
I'M THE *GUY*. THEY'RE LOOKING TO ME TO LEAD THEM THROUGH THIS. I CAN'T TELL THEM HOW BADLY THIS GUY *FREAKS* ME OUT.
HOLD UP.
LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA ALWAYS *SAYS*, NEVER LET THEM SEE YOU @#$% YOUR *PANTS*.

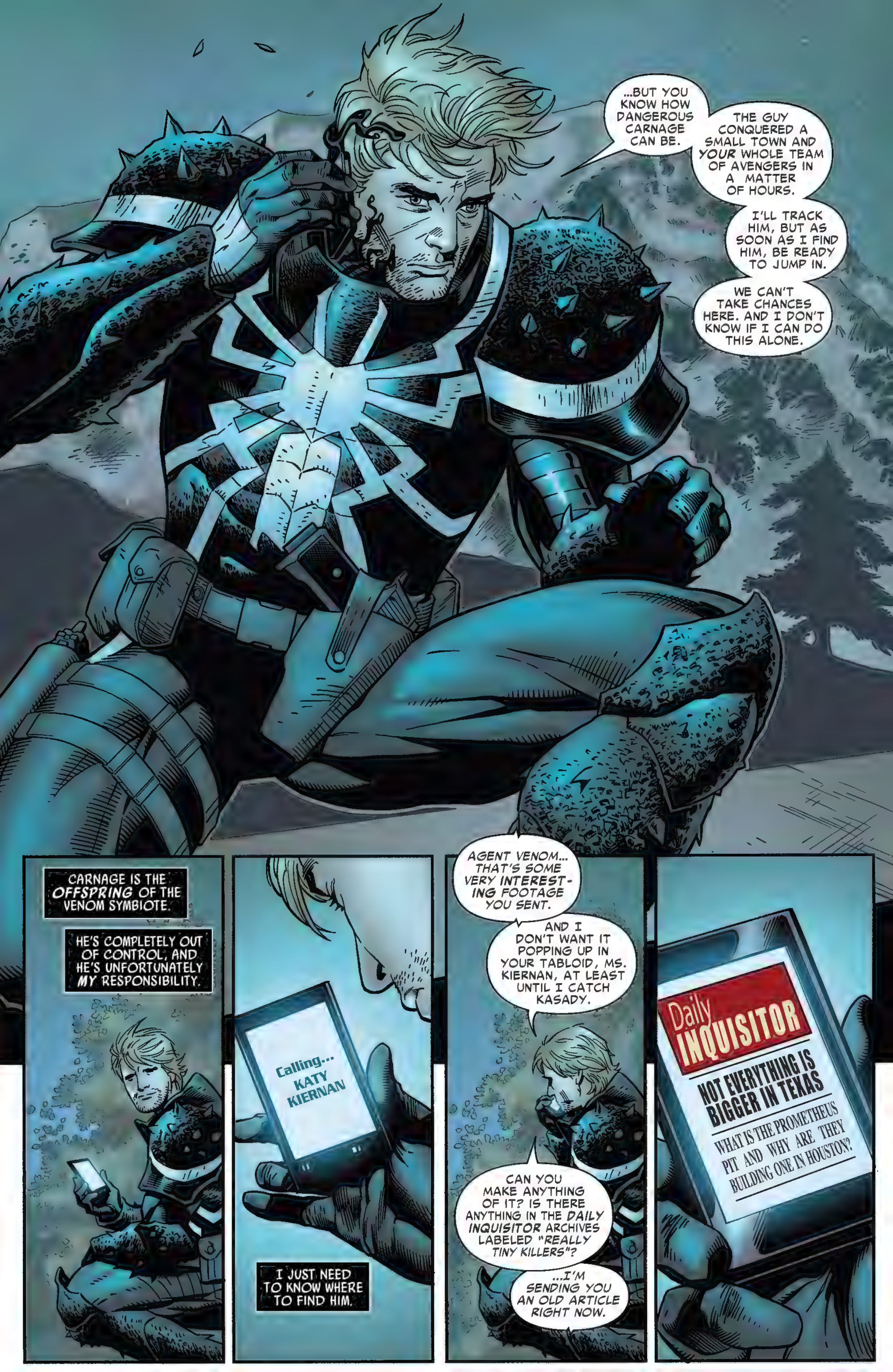

I HATE IT WHEN I'M RIGHT.
SOMEONE BLEW THESE DOORS ALL TO HELL.
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO SET THIS... *THING*... FREE?
THIS IS *WEIRD*.
LOOK AT THE WAY THE GLASS *FELL*.
THE WALLS HAVE BEEN BLASTED FROM *INSIDE* THE CELL.
HOW DID HE GET AHOLD OF A WEAPON *CAPABLE* OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
WHAT NOW, SIR?
NOW...
NOW WE HOPE FOR SURVIVORS WHO *AREN'T* AMERICA'S MOST AWFUL.
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET OUT.
WOULD'VE BEEN BEST TO PUT HIM OUT OF HIS *MISERY*.
HE'S A *MONSTER*.

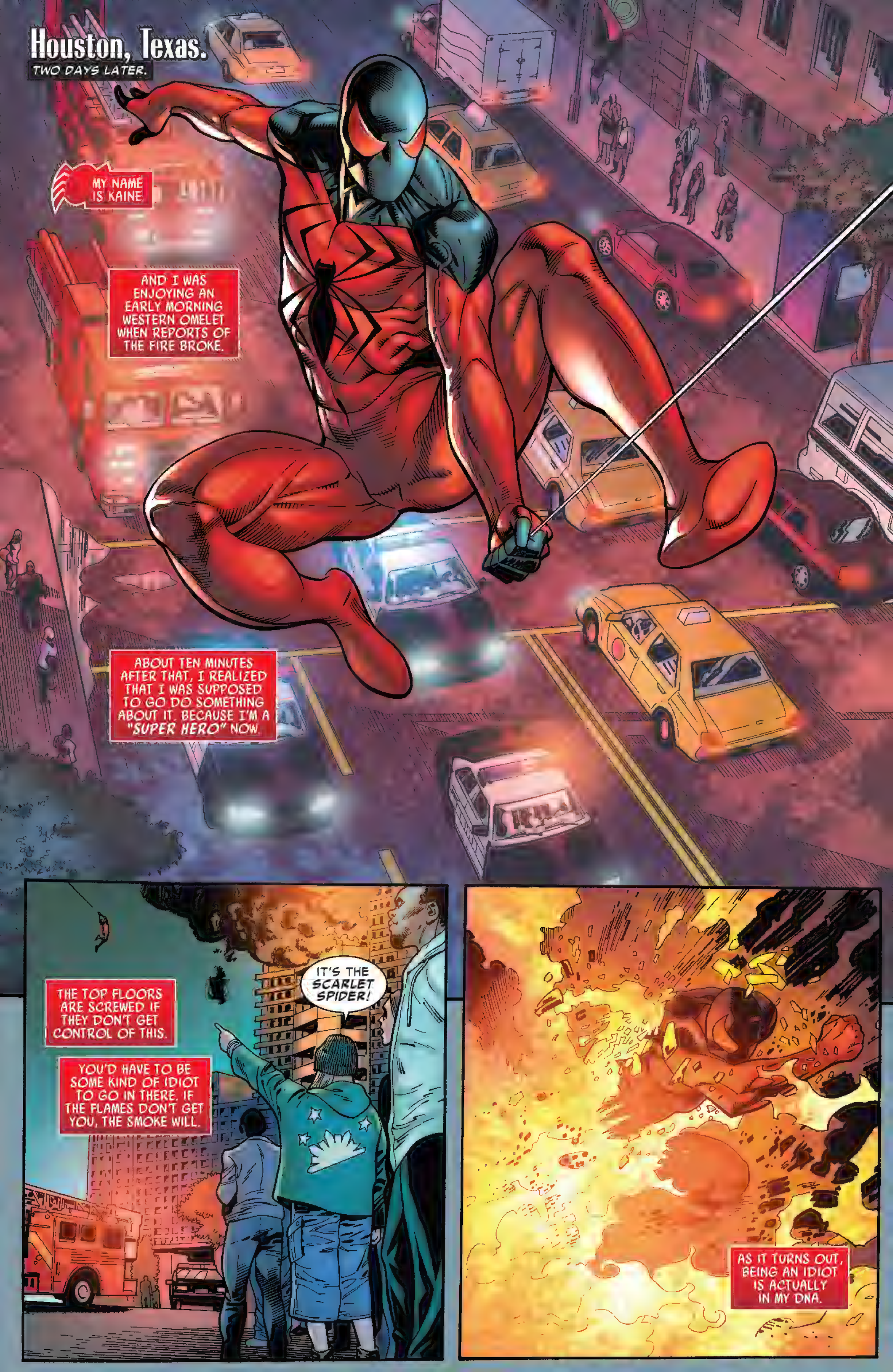

AND MONSTERS *ALWAYS* COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU.
IT'S BACK!
GOOD GOD, IT'S BACK!
SHH-WAM!
AAAHHHH!
EVERYONE CALM DOWN, I AM *AGENT VENOM*. I'M AN AVENGER. I'M HERE TO HELP.
EVERYONE ALL RIGHT IN HERE?
WE ARE MOST CERTAINLY *NOT* ALL RIGHT.
WHAT THE *HELL* HAPPENED HERE?
HONESTLY... WE'RE NOT SURE...
WHOEVER HIT US, THEY *SLIPPED* RIGHT PAST SECURITY...CUT POWER TO A GOOD PART OF THE FACILITY...TOOK *DOWN* OUR COMMUNICATION...
AS SOON AS THE ALARMS WENT *OFF*, WE MANAGED TO *SEAL* OURSELVES IN HERE.
WE'RE RUNNING ON EMERGENCY POWER, BUT WE'RE JUST NOW GETTING *SECURITY FOOTAGE* ONLINE.
I HOPE YOUR PHONES ARE BACK UP, TOO.
WE NEED TO CALL STATE POLICE, THE F.B.I., THE NATIONAL GUARD... EVERYONE.
CLETUS KASADY HAS BROKEN OUT.
CARNAGE HAS ESCAPED.
SO WE'RE GONNA GO *GET* HIM.

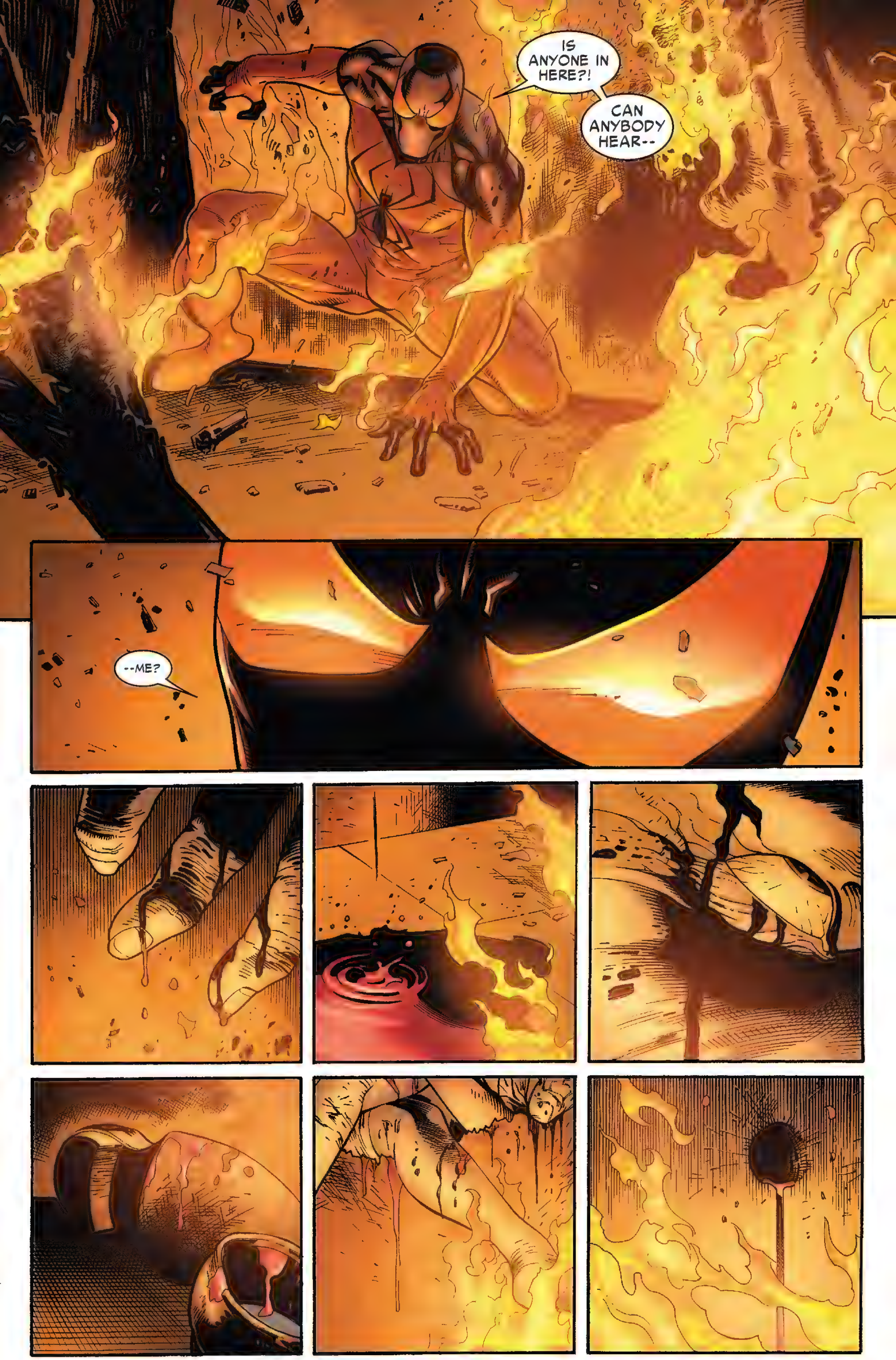

I-25 South. Police Checkpoint.
TWO HOURS LATER.
--*POINTLESS* IF YOU ASK ME.
WE'RE STANDING OUT HERE PLAYING "*SHOW-ME-YOURS*" WITH A BUNCH OF MOTORISTS WHEN WE SHOULD BE OUT THERE HUNTING THIS *PSYCHO* DOWN.
THERE'S NO WAY A SERIAL KILLER LIKE *CLETUS KASADY* IS GONNA BE DRIVING.
BY NOW HE'S *LONG GONE*.
1222
MAYBE THEY PUT US OUT HERE SO WE *WOULDN'T* HAVE TO DEAL WITH HIM.
I MEAN, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU *DID* STUMBLE ACROSS HIM?
I'D TAKE THESE SIZE TWELVES OF MINE AND RAM THEM RIGHT UP--
--HIS...
AFTERNOON, OFFICER.
DON'T MOVE!
Y'KNOW, OFFICER FRIENDLY, MY *NEW PALS* AREN'T GONNA LIKE YOU THREATENING ME LIKE THAT.
SEE...THEY WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TO SPRING ME OUT OF PRISON, AND THEY'VE GOT *BIG PLANS* FOR LITTLE OL' ME.
SHUT UP, KASADY!
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS OUT HERE.
YOU'RE GONNA MOVE NICE AND SLOW AND STEP OUT OF THE VEHICLE.
AND IF YOU SO MUCH AS *TWITCH* WRONG, I SWEAR TO GOD--

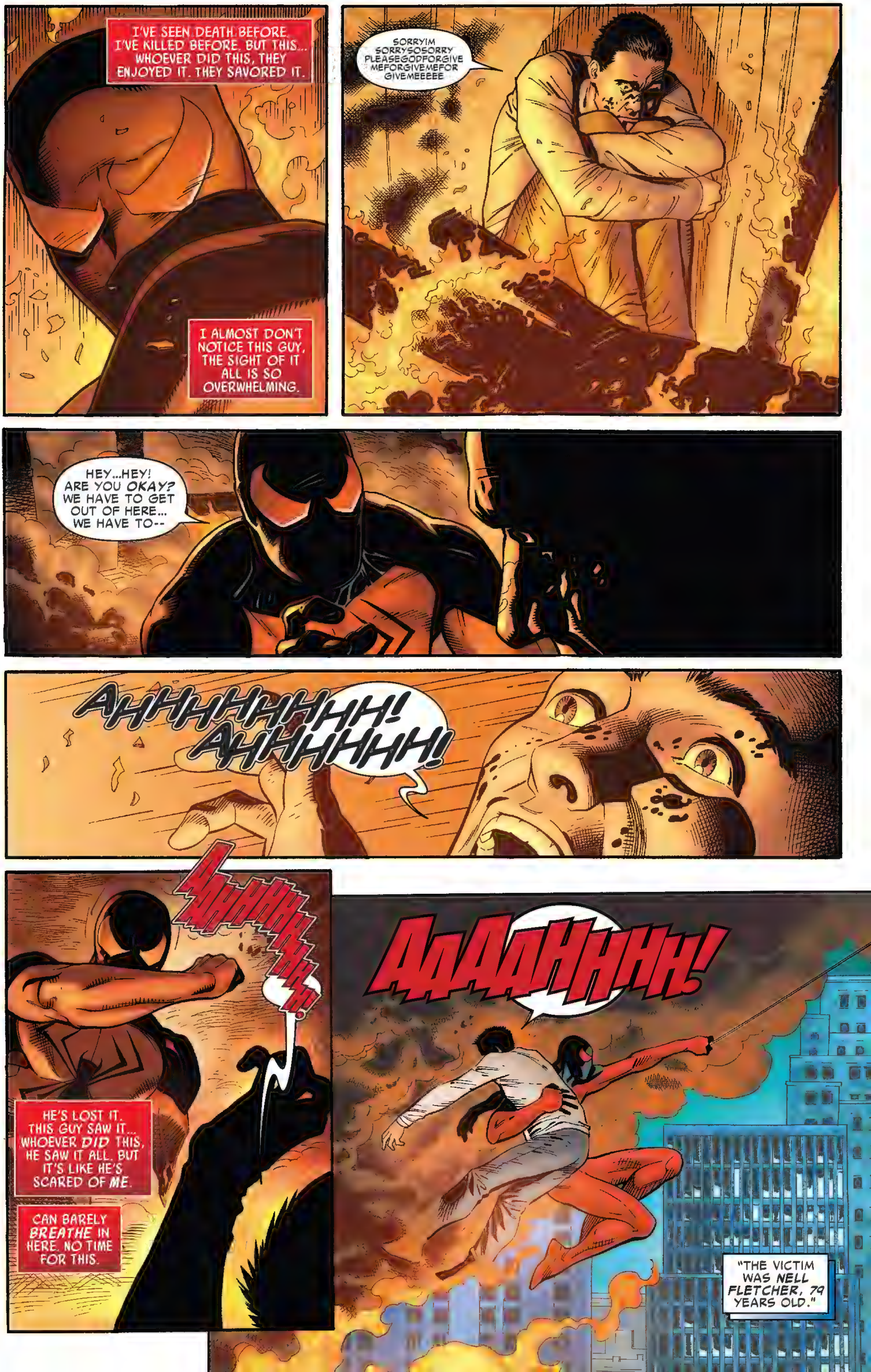

HRRK!
SLUSH!
UREET! UREET! UREET!
AAAGGH!
CHA-BOOM
STATE TROOPE
GGGGKKK
TOLD YA.
"PLAY IT BACK."

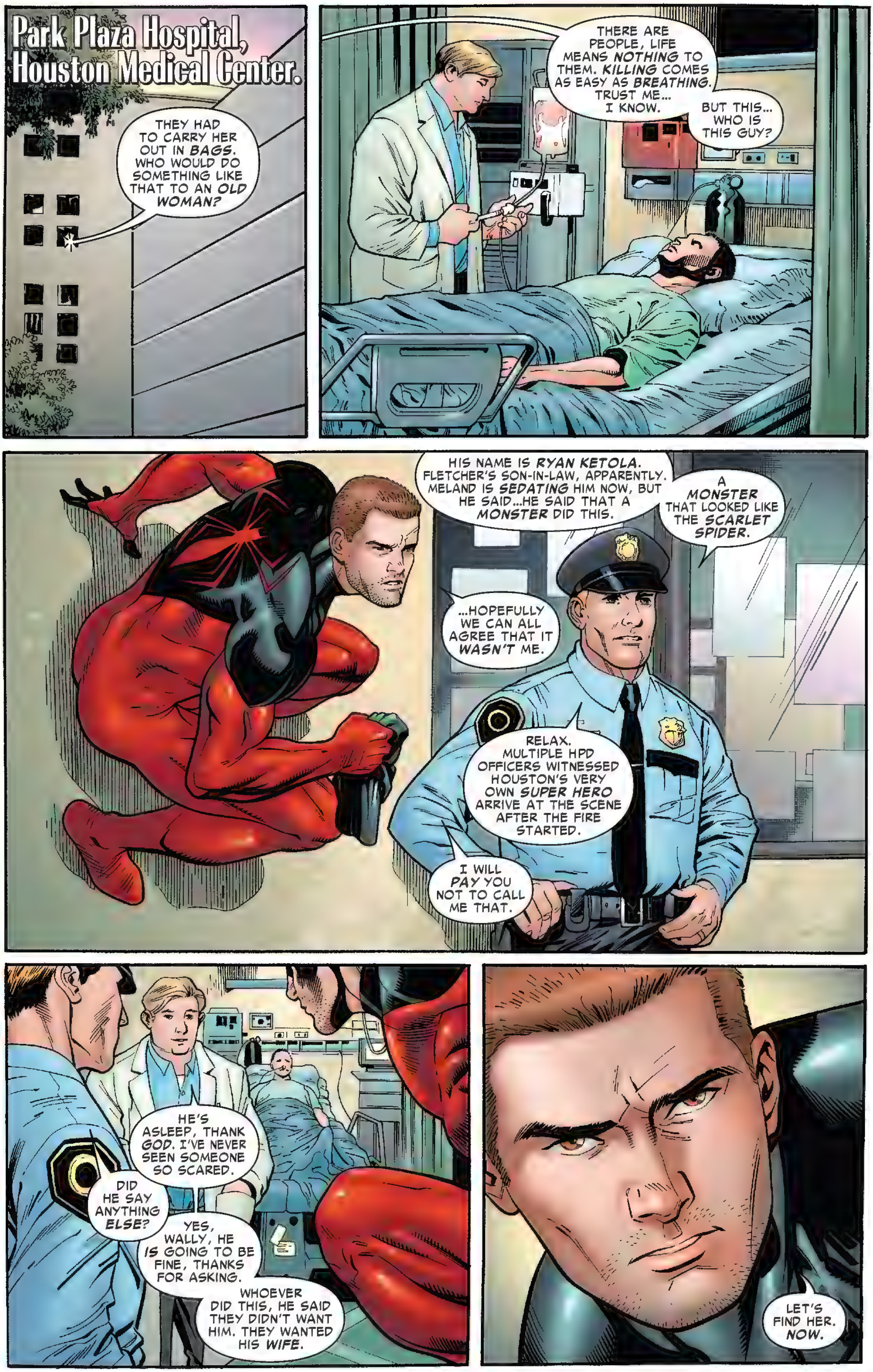

WHOEVER'S KILLING THESE PEOPLE... THAT'S *NOT* CARNAGE.
COULD THE ASSAILANT BE *INVISIBLE* OR SOMETHING?
IMPOSSIBLE. WE'RE PREPPED FOR INVISIBILITY.
WHY WASN'T THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE *DESTROYED?*
AT THE VERY LEAST, WHY WASN'T IT NEUTERED OR *SOMETHING?* THEY CAN DO THAT NOW. I'M *PROOF.*
DESTROYING THE SYMBIOTE IS *NOT* AS EASY AS YOU MIGHT THINK.
WE INCINERATED THE REMNANTS ON KASADY'S PERSON, BUT OUR DOCTORS TELL ME THE...*CREATURE*... IS PART OF KASADY'S BLOODSTREAM.
IT'S BONDED WITH HIM ON A CELLULAR LEVEL...NESTED IN HIS *DNA.*
SYMBIOTES CAN DO THAT?
WAIT... THERE.
I DON'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
ZOOM IN CLOSE ON THAT BODY.
WHAT IS *THAT?*
"WE'RE CASTING A WIDE NET, *HAWKEYE*..."

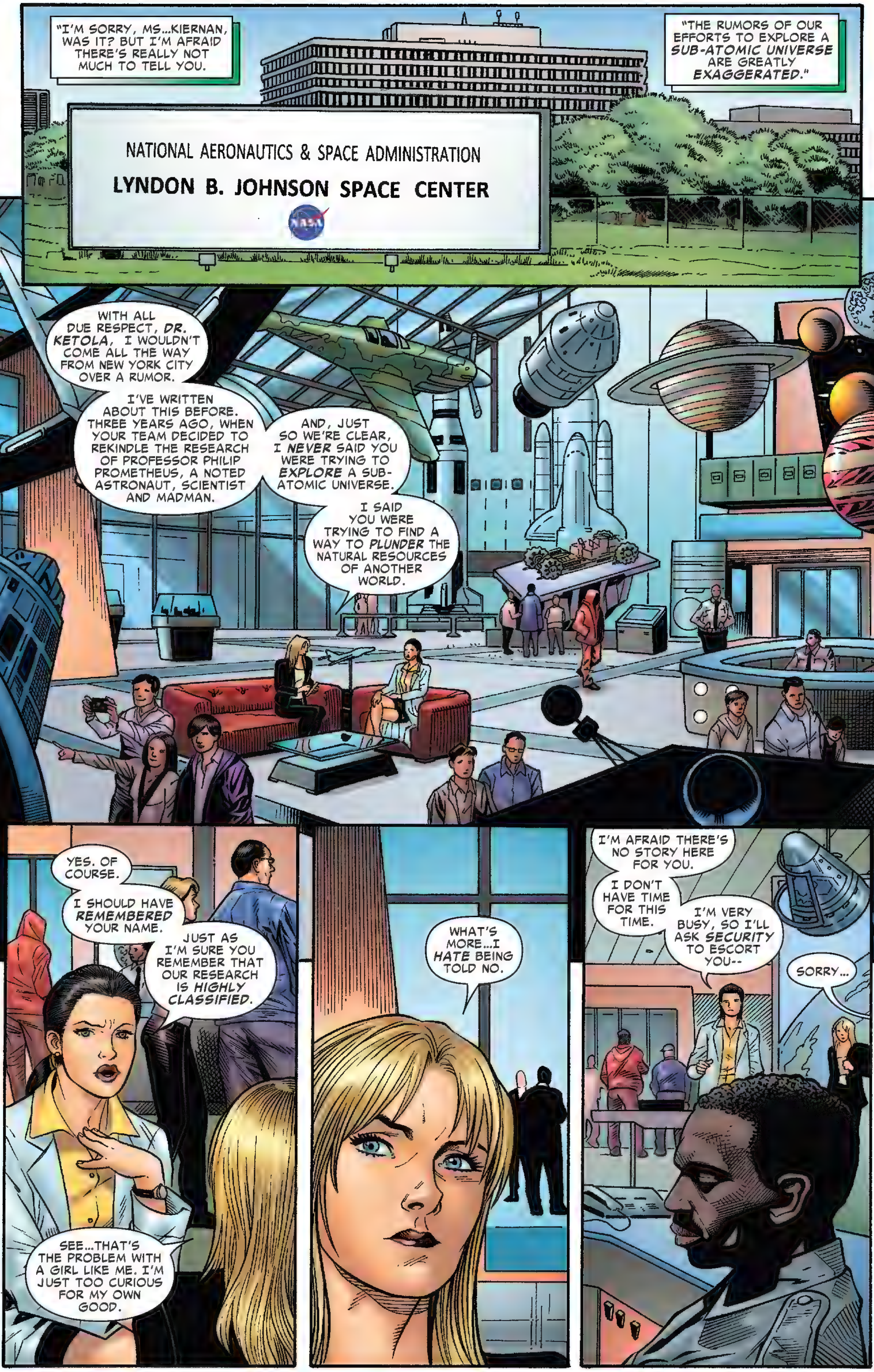

...BUT YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS CARNAGE CAN BE.
THE GUY CONQUERED A SMALL TOWN AND *YOUR* WHOLE TEAM OF AVENGERS IN A MATTER OF HOURS.
I'LL TRACK HIM, BUT AS SOON AS I FIND HIM, BE READY TO JUMP IN.
WE CAN'T TAKE CHANCES HERE. AND I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS ALONE.
CARNAGE IS THE *OFFSPRING* OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE.
HE'S COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL, AND HE'S UNFORTUNATELY *MY* RESPONSIBILITY.
Calling... KATY KIERNAN
I JUST NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM.
*AGENT VENOM... THAT'S SOME VERY **INTERESTING** FOOTAGE YOU SENT.*
AND I DON'T WANT IT POPPING UP IN YOUR TABLOID, MS. KIERNAN, AT LEAST UNTIL I CATCH KASADY.
CAN YOU MAKE ANYTHING OF IT? IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE *DAILY INQUISITOR* ARCHIVES LABELED "REALLY TINY KILLERS"?
...I'M SENDING YOU AN OLD ARTICLE RIGHT NOW.
Daily INQUISITOR
NOT EVERYTHING IS BIGGER IN TEXAS
WHAT IS THE PROMETHEUS PIT AND WHY ARE THEY BUILDING ONE IN HOUSTON?

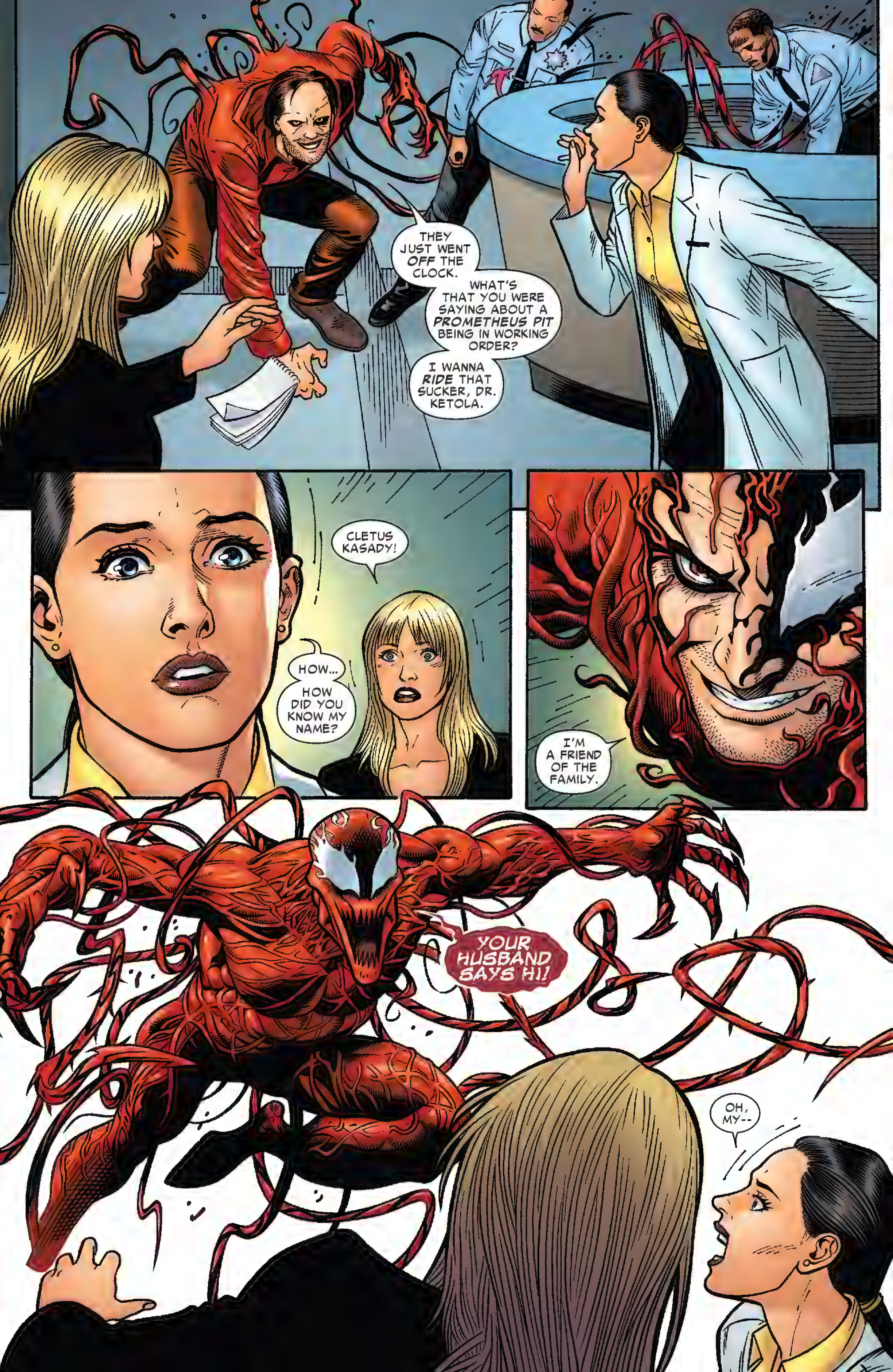

Houston, Texas.
TWO DAYS LATER.
MY NAME IS KAINE.
AND I WAS ENJOYING AN EARLY MORNING WESTERN OMELET WHEN REPORTS OF THE FIRE BROKE.
ABOUT TEN MINUTES AFTER THAT, I REALIZED THAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, BECAUSE I'M A *"SUPER HERO"* NOW.
THE TOP FLOORS ARE SCREWED IF THEY DON'T GET CONTROL OF THIS.
YOU'D HAVE TO BE SOME KIND OF IDIOT TO GO IN THERE. IF THE FLAMES DON'T GET YOU, THE SMOKE WILL.
IT'S THE *SCARLET SPIDER!*
AS IT TURNS OUT, BEING AN IDIOT IS ACTUALLY IN MY DNA.

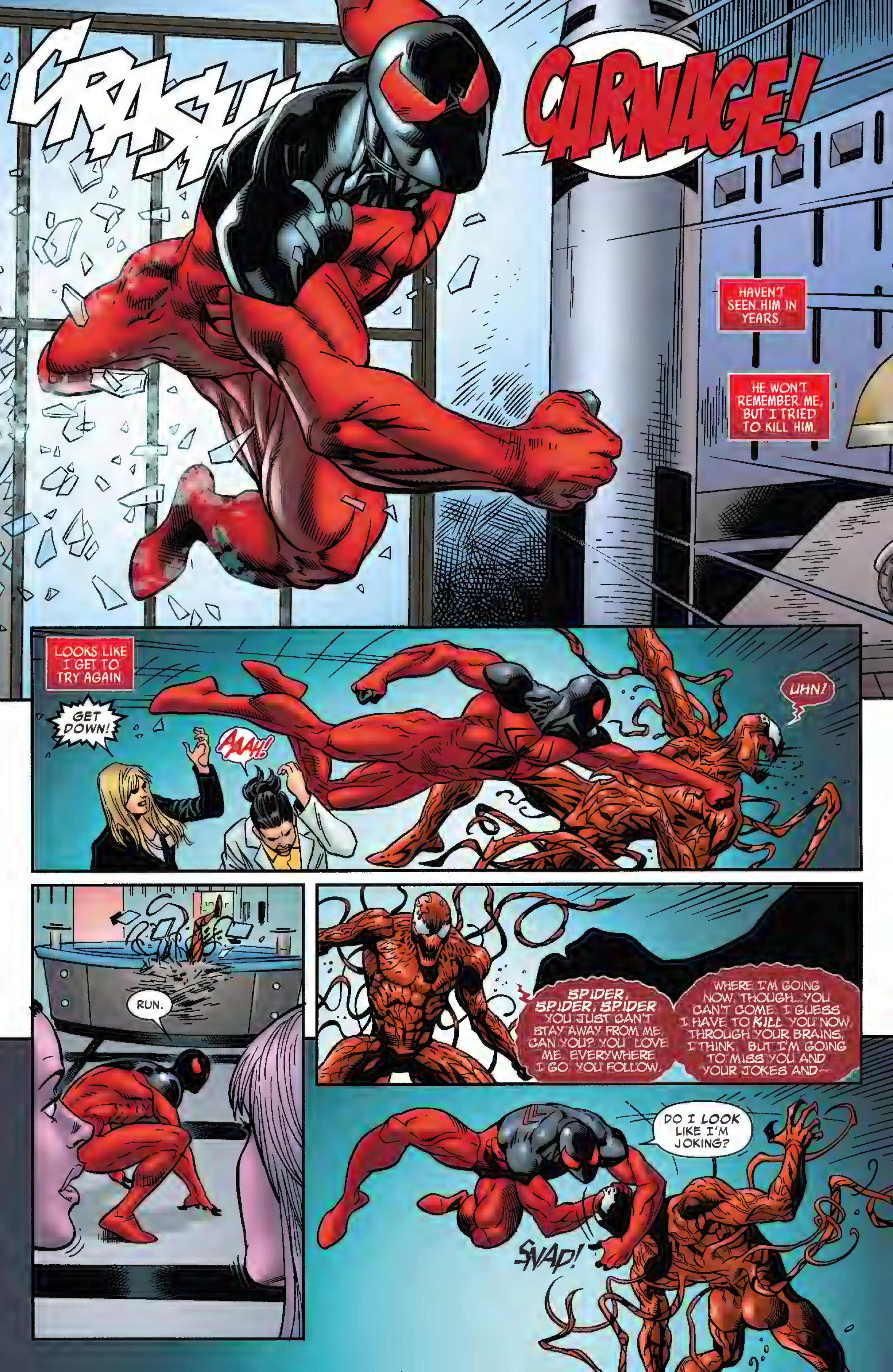

IS ANYONE IN HERE?!
CAN ANYBODY HEAR--
--ME?

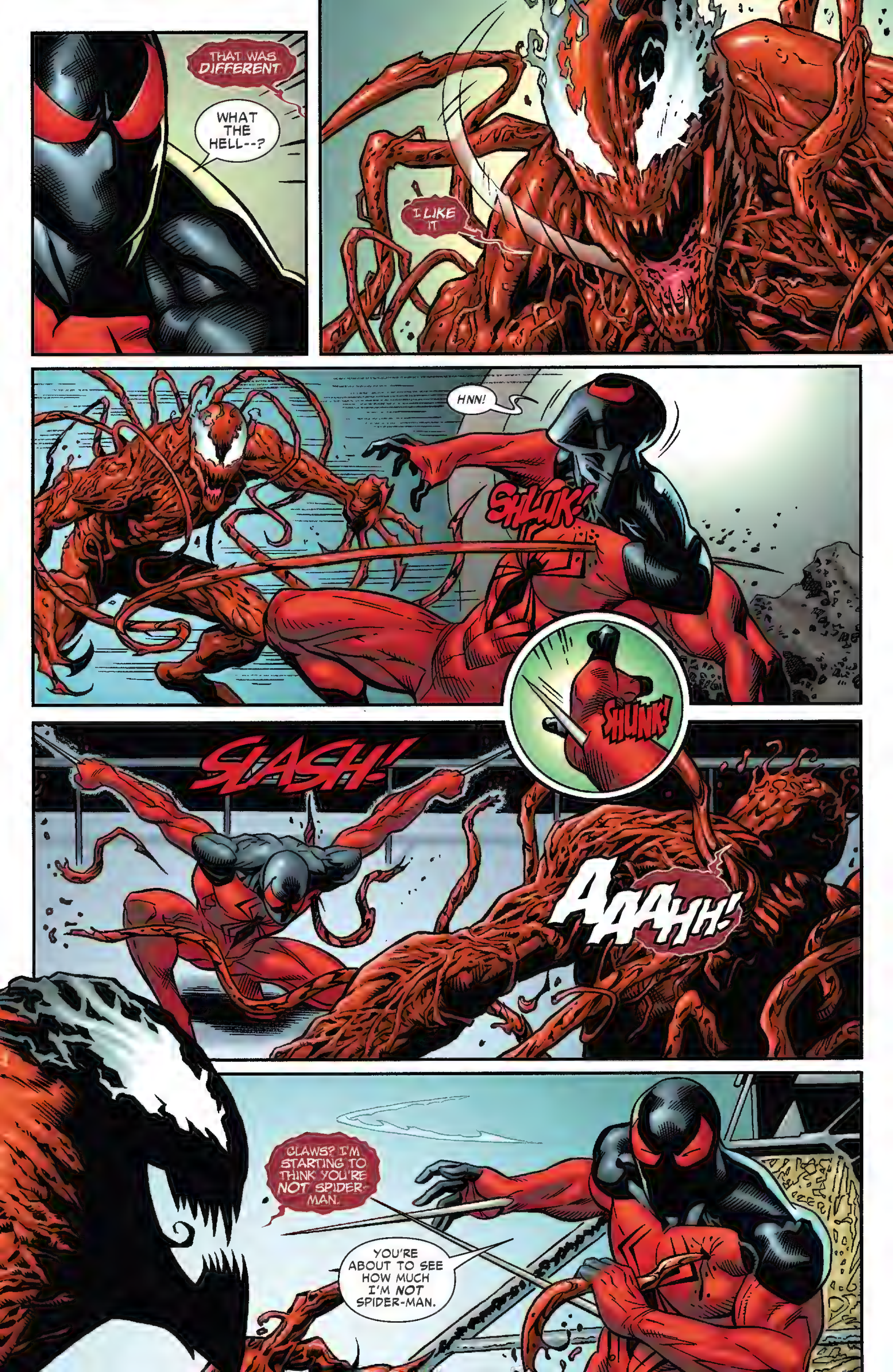

I'VE SEEN DEATH BEFORE. I'VE KILLED BEFORE. BUT THIS... WHOEVER DID THIS, THEY ENJOYED IT. THEY SAVORED IT.
I ALMOST DON'T NOTICE THIS GUY. THE SIGHT OF IT ALL IS SO OVERWHELMING.
SORRYIM SORRYSOSORRY PLEASEGODFORGIVE MEFORGIVEMEFOR GIVEMEEEEE
HEY...HEY! ARE YOU *OKAY?* WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE... WE HAVE TO--
AHHHHHHHH! AHHHHHHH!
AHHHHHHHHHH!
HE'S LOST IT. THIS GUY SAW IT... WHOEVER *DID* THIS, HE SAW IT ALL. BUT IT'S LIKE HE'S SCARED OF *ME*.
CAN BARELY *BREATHE* IN HERE. NO TIME FOR THIS.
AAAAHHHHH!
"THE VICTIM WAS *NELL FLETCHER, 79* YEARS OLD."

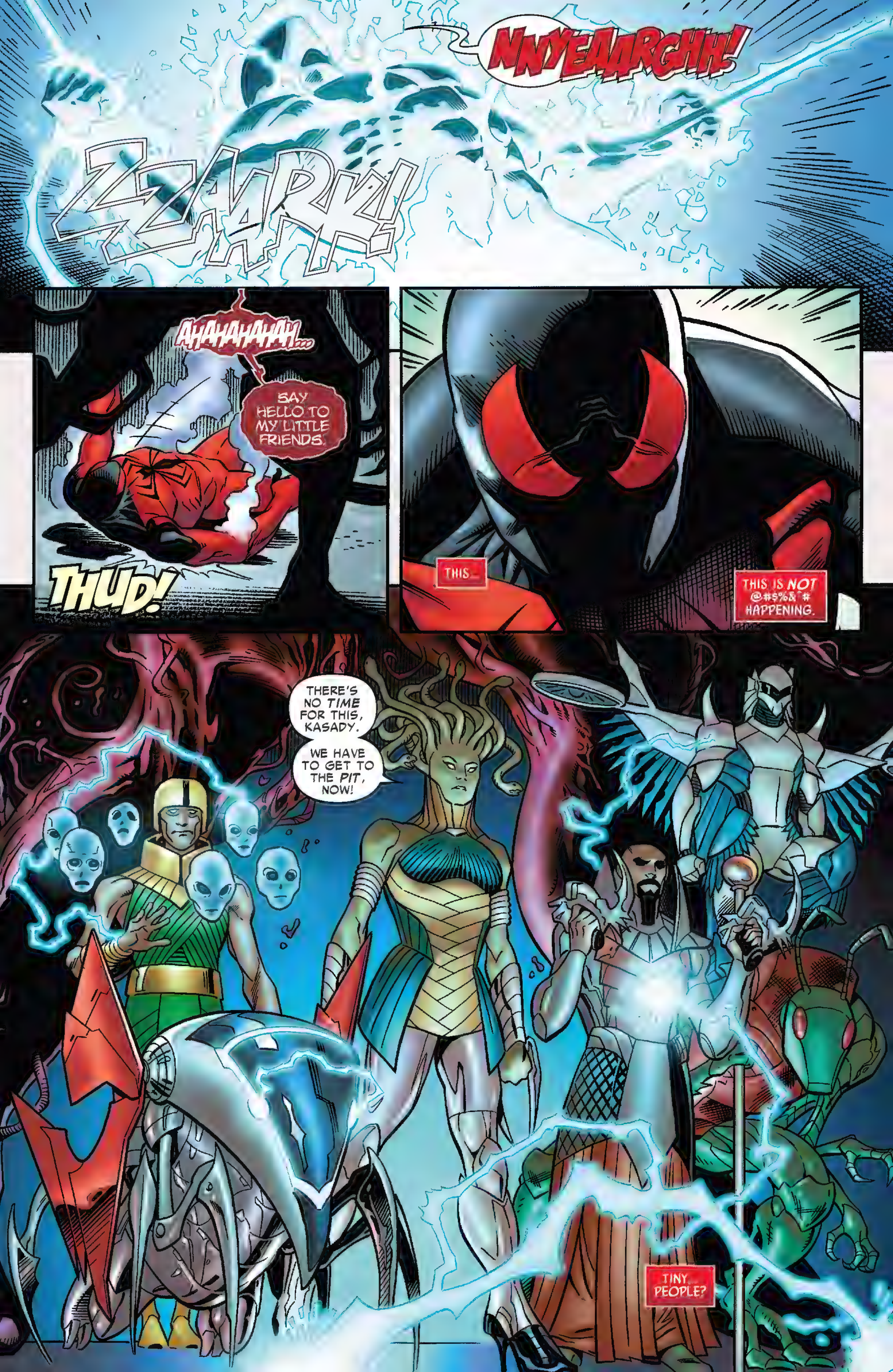

Park Plaza Hospital, Houston Medical Center.
THEY HAD TO CARRY HER OUT IN *BAGS*. WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO AN *OLD WOMAN?*
THERE ARE PEOPLE, LIFE MEANS *NOTHING* TO THEM. *KILLING* COMES AS EASY AS *BREATHING*. TRUST ME... I KNOW.
BUT THIS... WHO IS THIS GUY?
HIS NAME IS *RYAN KETOLA*. FLETCHER'S SON-IN-LAW, APPARENTLY. MELAND IS *SEDATING* HIM NOW, BUT HE SAID...HE SAID THAT A *MONSTER* DID THIS.
A *MONSTER* THAT LOOKED LIKE THE *SCARLET SPIDER*.
...HOPEFULLY WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT IT *WASN'T* ME.
RELAX. MULTIPLE HPD OFFICERS WITNESSED HOUSTON'S VERY OWN *SUPER HERO* ARRIVE AT THE SCENE AFTER THE FIRE STARTED.
I WILL *PAY* YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT.
HE'S ASLEEP, THANK *GOD*. I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE SO SCARED.
DID HE SAY ANYTHING *ELSE?*
YES, WALLY, HE *IS* GOING TO BE FINE, THANKS FOR ASKING.
WHOEVER DID THIS, HE SAID THEY DIDN'T WANT HIM. THEY WANTED HIS *WIFE*.
LET'S FIND HER. *NOW*.

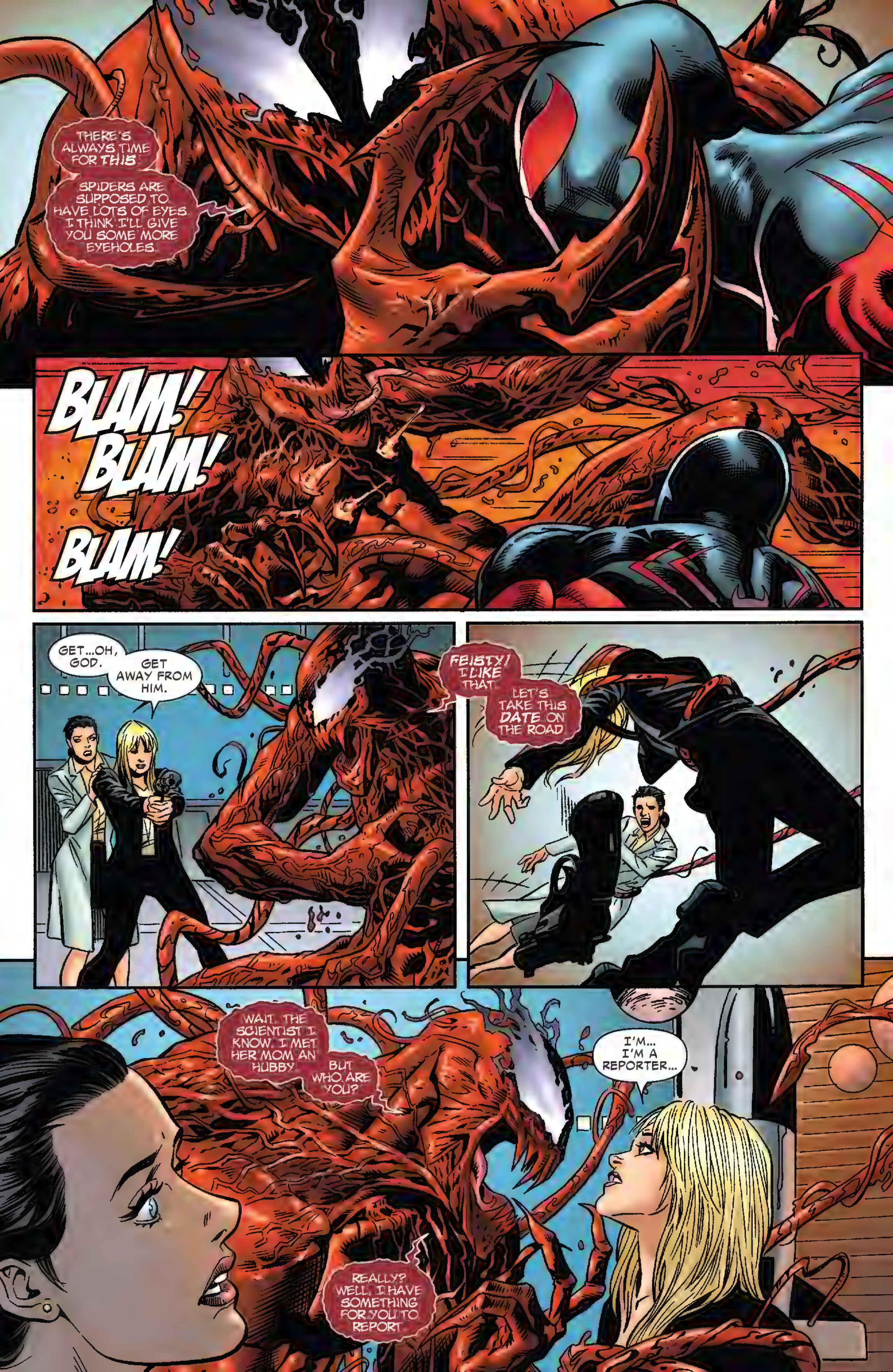

"I'M SORRY, MS...KIERNAN, WAS IT? BUT I'M AFRAID THERE'S REALLY NOT MUCH TO TELL YOU.
"THE RUMORS OF OUR EFFORTS TO EXPLORE A *SUB-ATOMIC UNIVERSE* ARE GREATLY *EXAGGERATED*."
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS & SPACE ADMINISTRATION
LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER
NASA
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, *DR. KETOLA*, I WOULDN'T COME ALL THE WAY FROM NEW YORK CITY OVER A RUMOR.
I'VE WRITTEN ABOUT THIS BEFORE. THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN YOUR TEAM DECIDED TO REKINDLE THE RESEARCH OF PROFESSOR PHILIP PROMETHEUS, A NOTED ASTRONAUT, SCIENTIST AND MADMAN.
AND, JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, I *NEVER* SAID YOU WERE TRYING TO *EXPLORE* A SUB-ATOMIC UNIVERSE.
I SAID YOU WERE TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO *PLUNDER* THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF ANOTHER WORLD.
YES. OF COURSE.
I SHOULD HAVE *REMEMBERED* YOUR NAME.
JUST AS I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER THAT OUR RESEARCH IS *HIGHLY CLASSIFIED*.
SEE...THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH A GIRL LIKE ME. I'M JUST TOO CURIOUS FOR MY OWN GOOD.
WHAT'S MORE...I *HATE* BEING TOLD NO.
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO STORY HERE FOR YOU.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS TIME.
I'M VERY BUSY, SO I'LL ASK *SECURITY* TO ESCORT YOU--
SORRY...

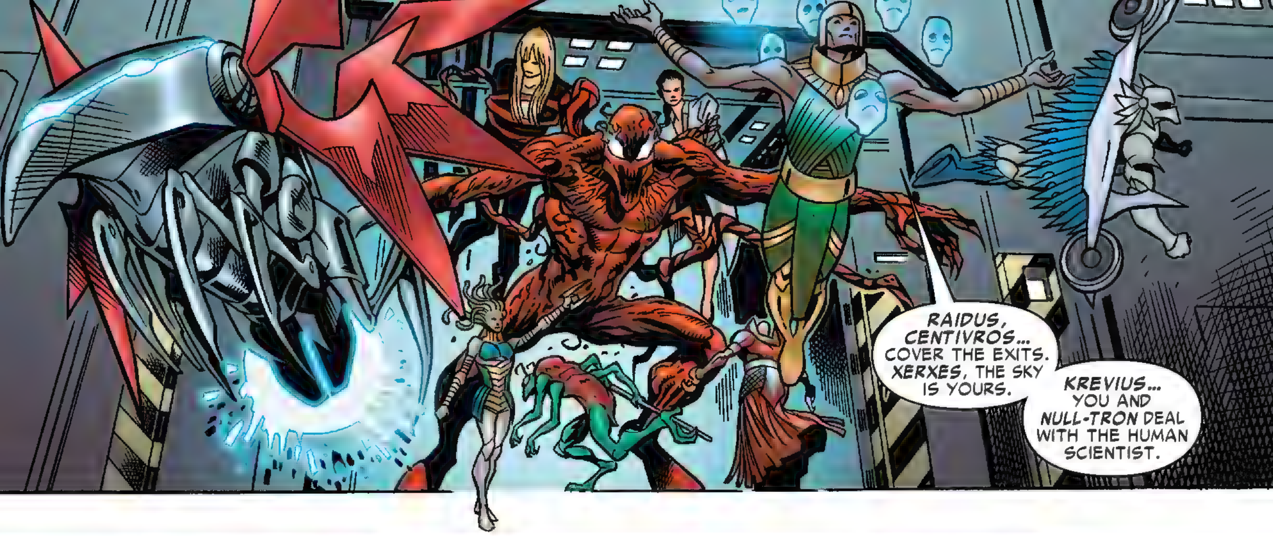

THEY JUST WENT *OFF* THE CLOCK.
WHAT'S THAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT A *PROMETHEUS PIT* BEING IN WORKING ORDER?
I WANNA *RIDE* THAT SUCKER, DR. KETOLA.
CLETUS KASADY!
HOW...
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?
I'M A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.
YOUR HUSBAND SAYS HI!
OH, MY--

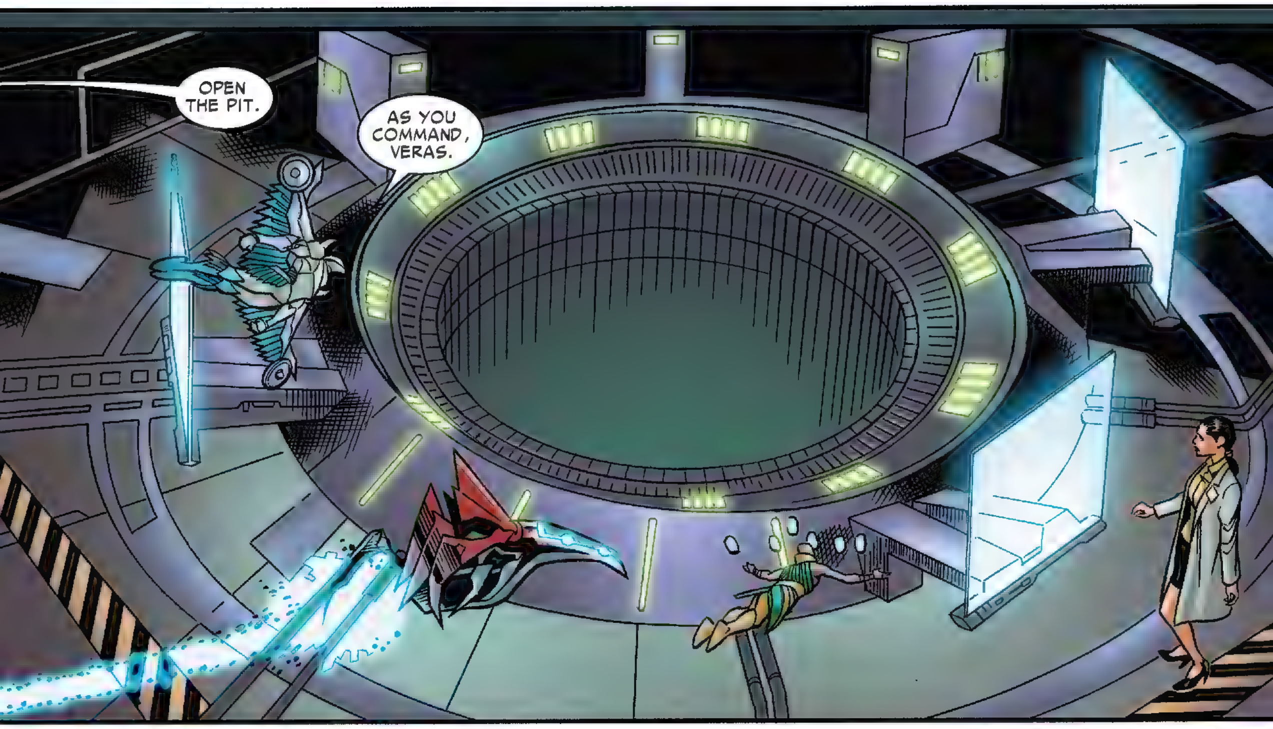

CRASH!
CARNAGE!
HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN YEARS.
HE WON'T REMEMBER ME, BUT I TRIED TO KILL HIM.
LOOKS LIKE I GET TO TRY AGAIN.
GET DOWN!
AAAH!
UHN!
RUN.
SPIDER, SPIDER, SPIDER YOU JUST CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM ME, CAN YOU? YOU LOVE ME. EVERYWHERE I GO, YOU FOLLOW.
WHERE I'M GOING NOW, THOUGH... YOU CAN'T COME, I GUESS. I HAVE TO KILL YOU NOW, THROUGH YOUR BRAINS, I THINK. BUT I'M GOING TO MISS YOU AND YOUR JOKES AND--
DO I LOOK LIKE I'M JOKING?
SNAP!

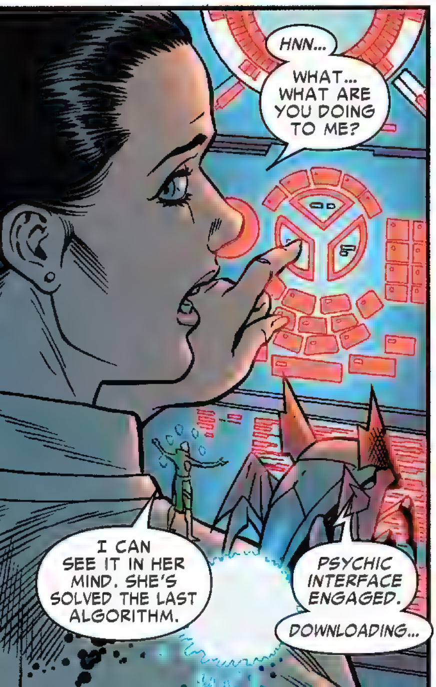

THAT WAS *DIFFERENT*
WHAT THE HELL--?
I LIKE IT
HNN!
SHLUK!
SHUNK!
SLASH!
AAAHH!
CLAWS? I'M STARTING TO THINK YOU'RE *NOT* SPIDER-MAN.
YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE HOW MUCH I'M *NOT* SPIDER-MAN.

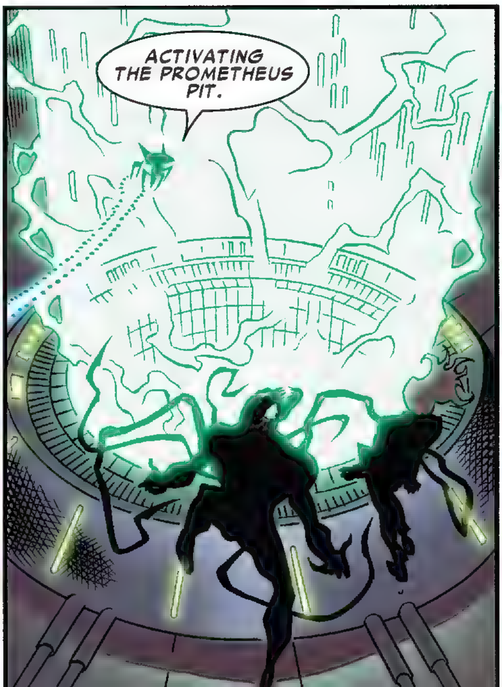

NNYEAARGHH!
ZZAARK!
AHAHAHAHAH...
SAY HELLO TO MY LITTLE FRIENDS.
THUD!
THIS...
THIS IS NOT @#$%& # HAPPENING.
THERE'S NO *TIME* FOR THIS, KASADY.
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE *PIT*, NOW!
TINY... PEOPLE?

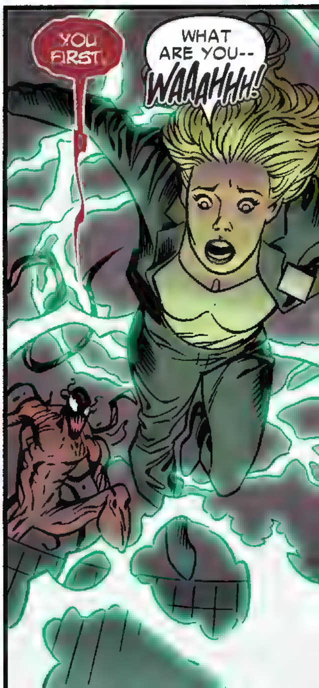

THERE'S ALWAYS TIME FOR THIS.
SPIDERS ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE LOTS OF EYES. I THINK I'LL GIVE YOU SOME MORE EYEHOLES.
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
GET...OH, GOD.
GET AWAY FROM HIM.
FEISTY! I LIKE THAT.
LET'S TAKE THIS DATE ON THE ROAD.
WAIT. THE SCIENTIST I KNOW. I MET HER MOM AN HUBBY.
BUT WHO ARE YOU?
I'M... I'M A REPORTER...
REALLY? WELL, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU TO REPORT.

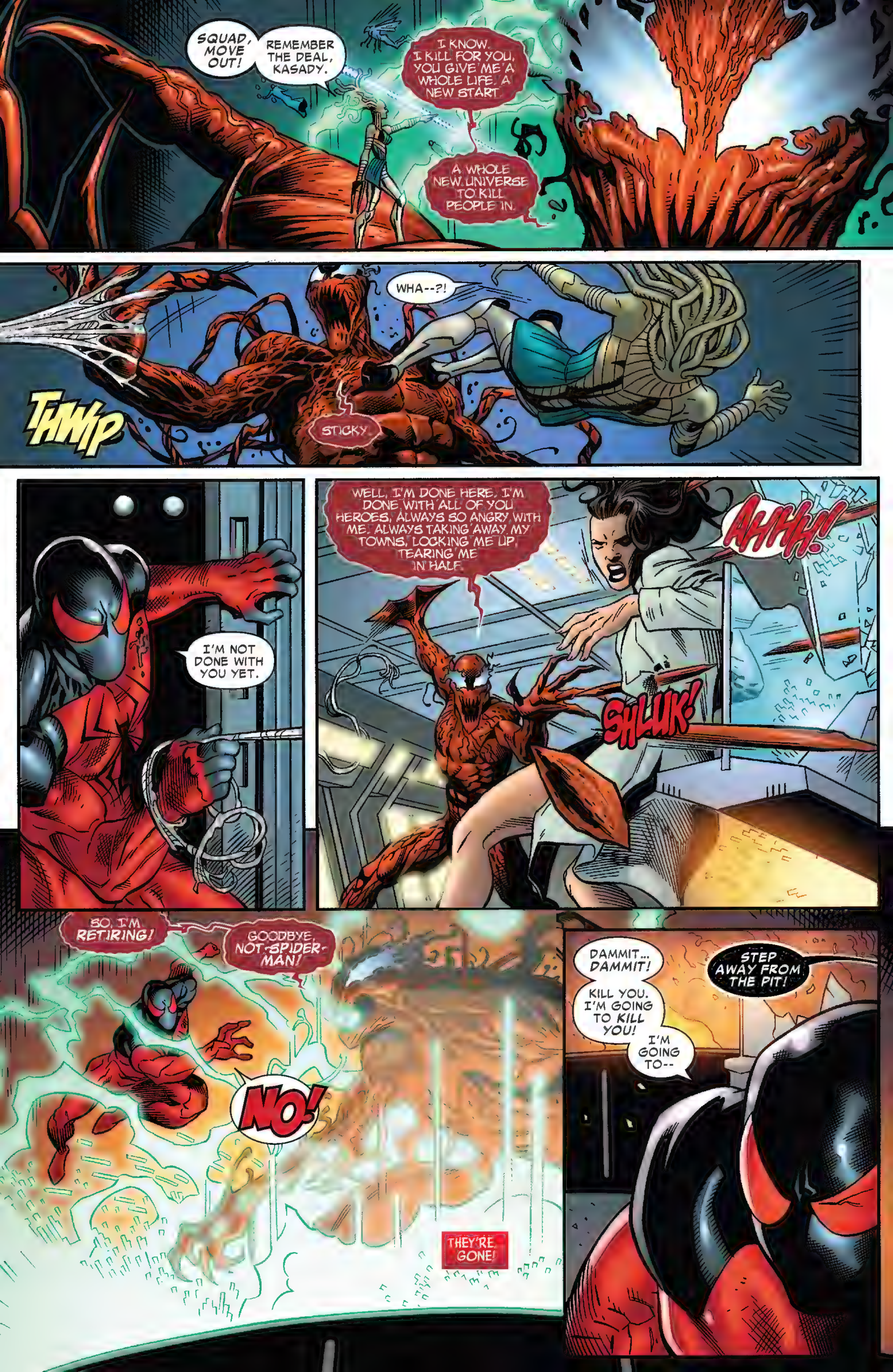

RAIDUS, CENTIVROS... COVER THE EXITS. XERXES, THE SKY IS YOURS.
KREVIUS... YOU AND NULL-TRON DEAL WITH THE HUMAN SCIENTIST.

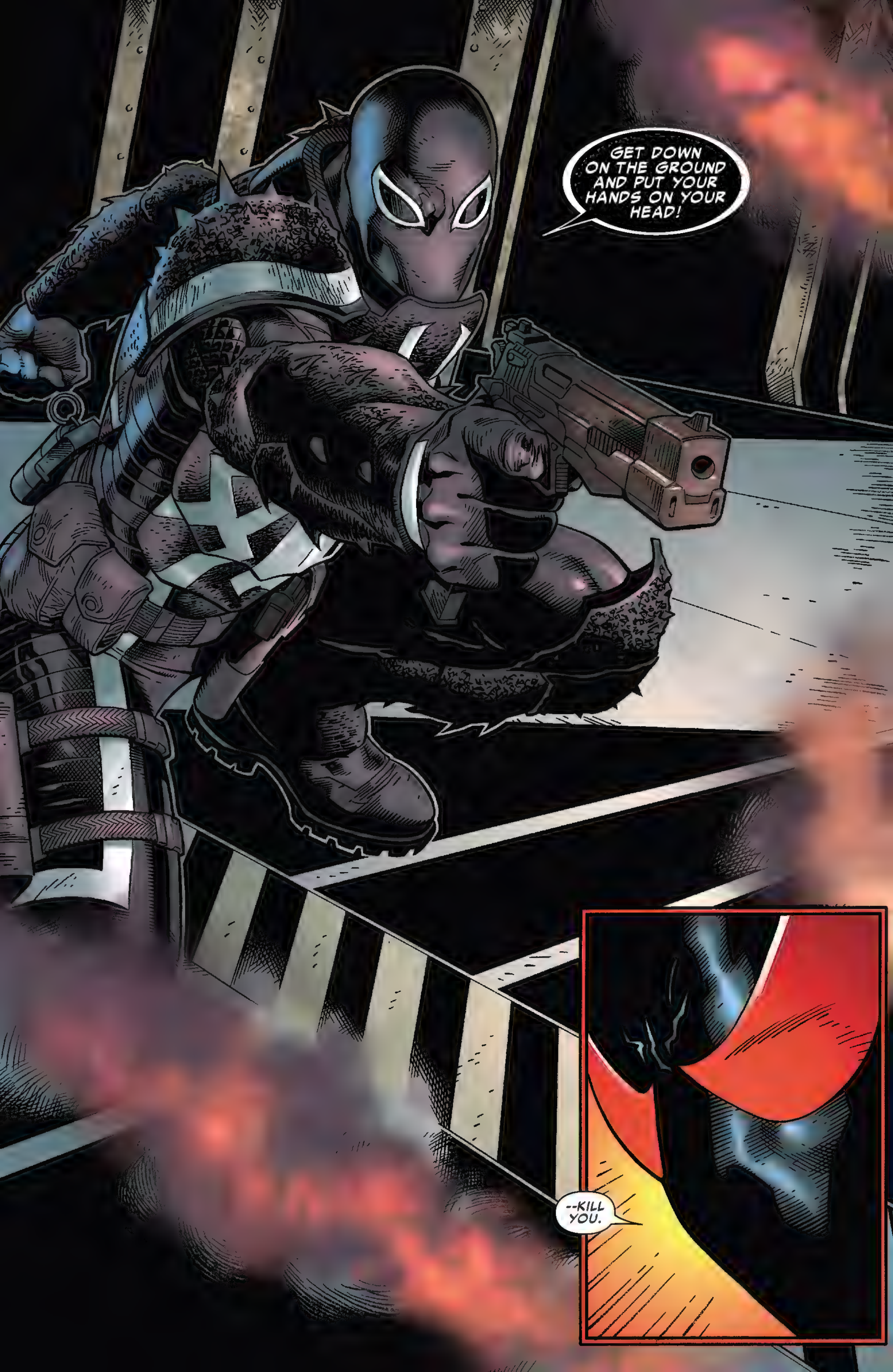

OPEN THE PIT.
AS YOU COMMAND, VERAS.

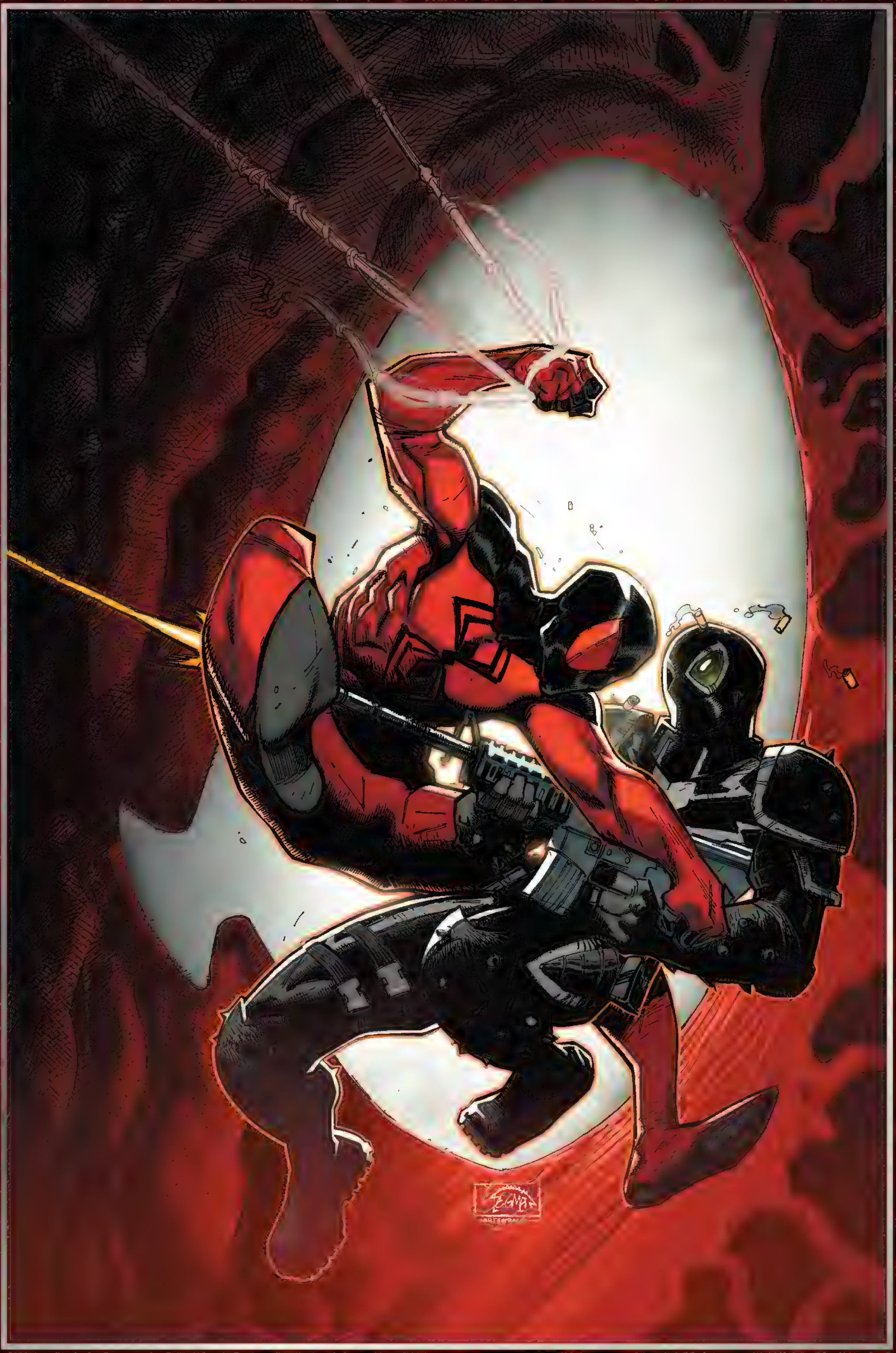

HNN...
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?
I CAN SEE IT IN HER MIND. SHE'S SOLVED THE LAST ALGORITHM.
PSYCHIC INTERFACE ENGAGED.
DOWNLOADING...


ACTIVATING THE PROMETHEUS PIT.

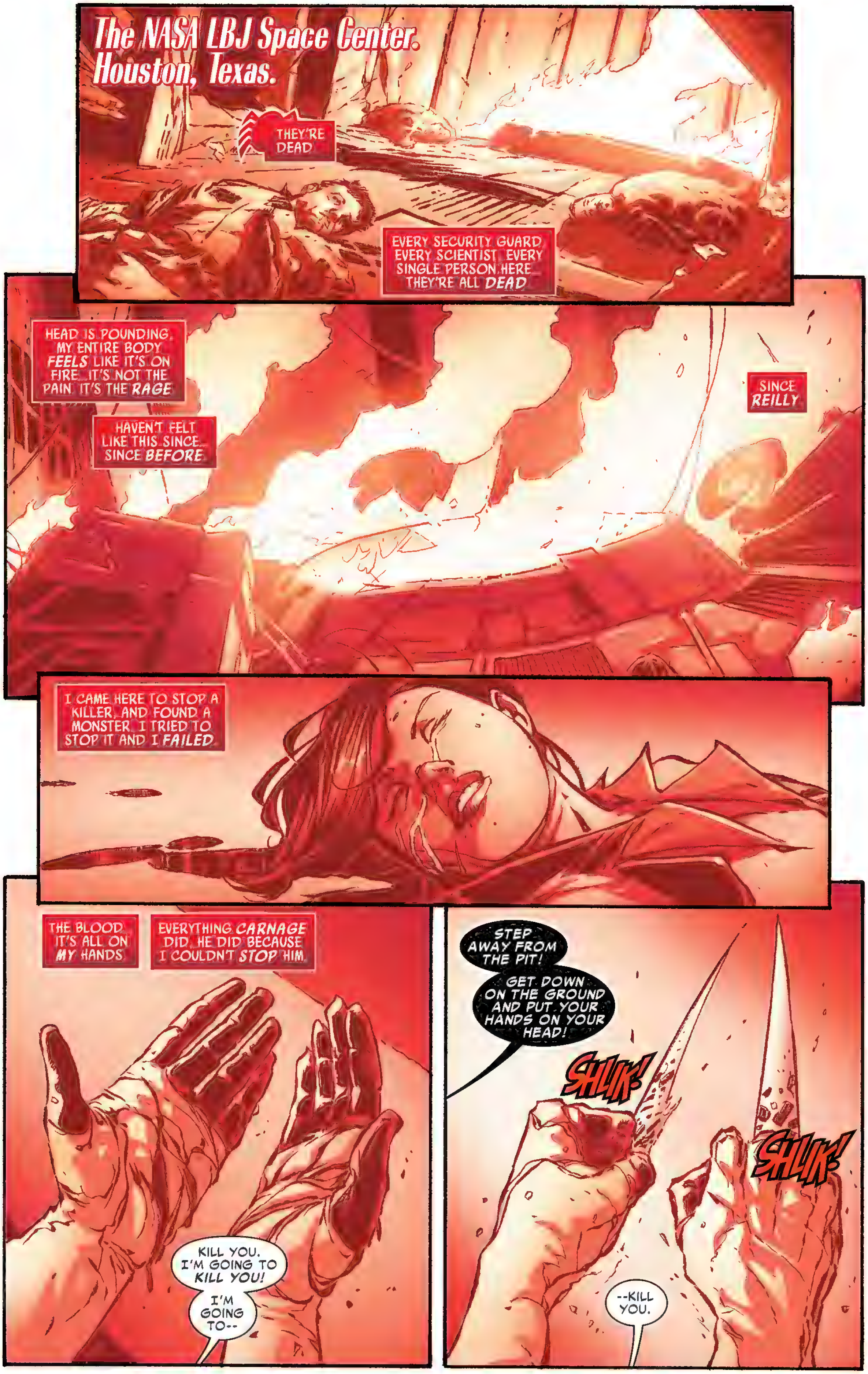

YOU FIRST.
WHAT ARE YOU--
WAAAHHH!

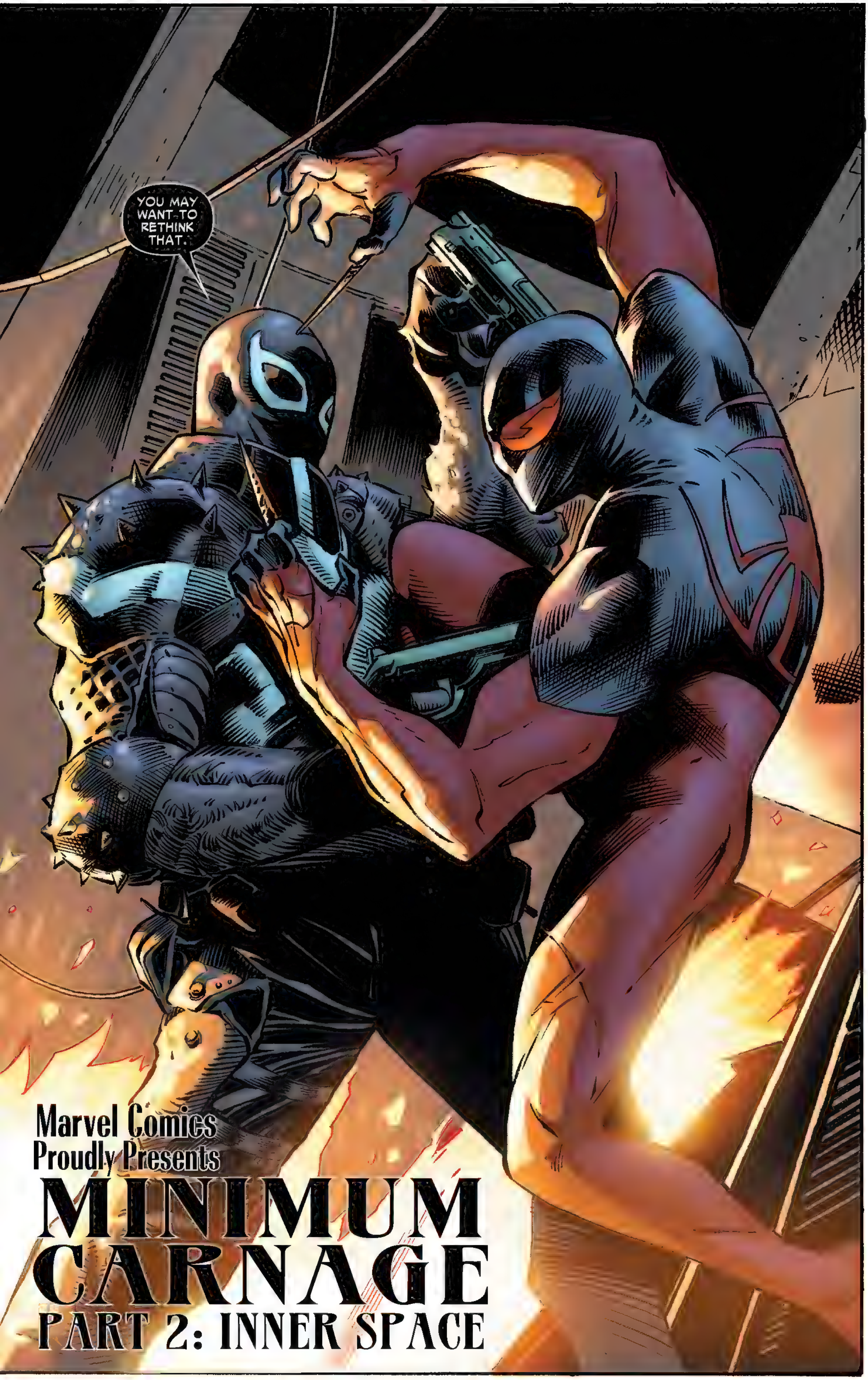

SQUAD, MOVE OUT!
REMEMBER THE DEAL, KASADY.
I KNOW. I KILL FOR YOU, YOU GIVE ME A WHOLE LIFE. A NEW START.
A WHOLE NEW UNIVERSE TO KILL PEOPLE IN.
WHA--?!
THWIP
STICKY.
I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET.
WELL, I'M DONE HERE. I'M DONE WITH ALL OF YOU HEROES, ALWAYS SO ANGRY WITH ME, ALWAYS TAKING AWAY MY TOWNS, LOCKING ME UP, TEARING ME IN HALF.
AHHH!
SHLUK!
SO, I'M RETIRING!
GOODBYE, NOT-SPIDER-MAN!
NO!
THEY'RE GONE!
DAMMIT... DAMMIT!
KILL YOU. I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
I'M GOING TO--
STEP AWAY FROM THE PIT!


GET DOWN ON THE GROUND AND PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!
--KILL YOU.



scarlet spider #10

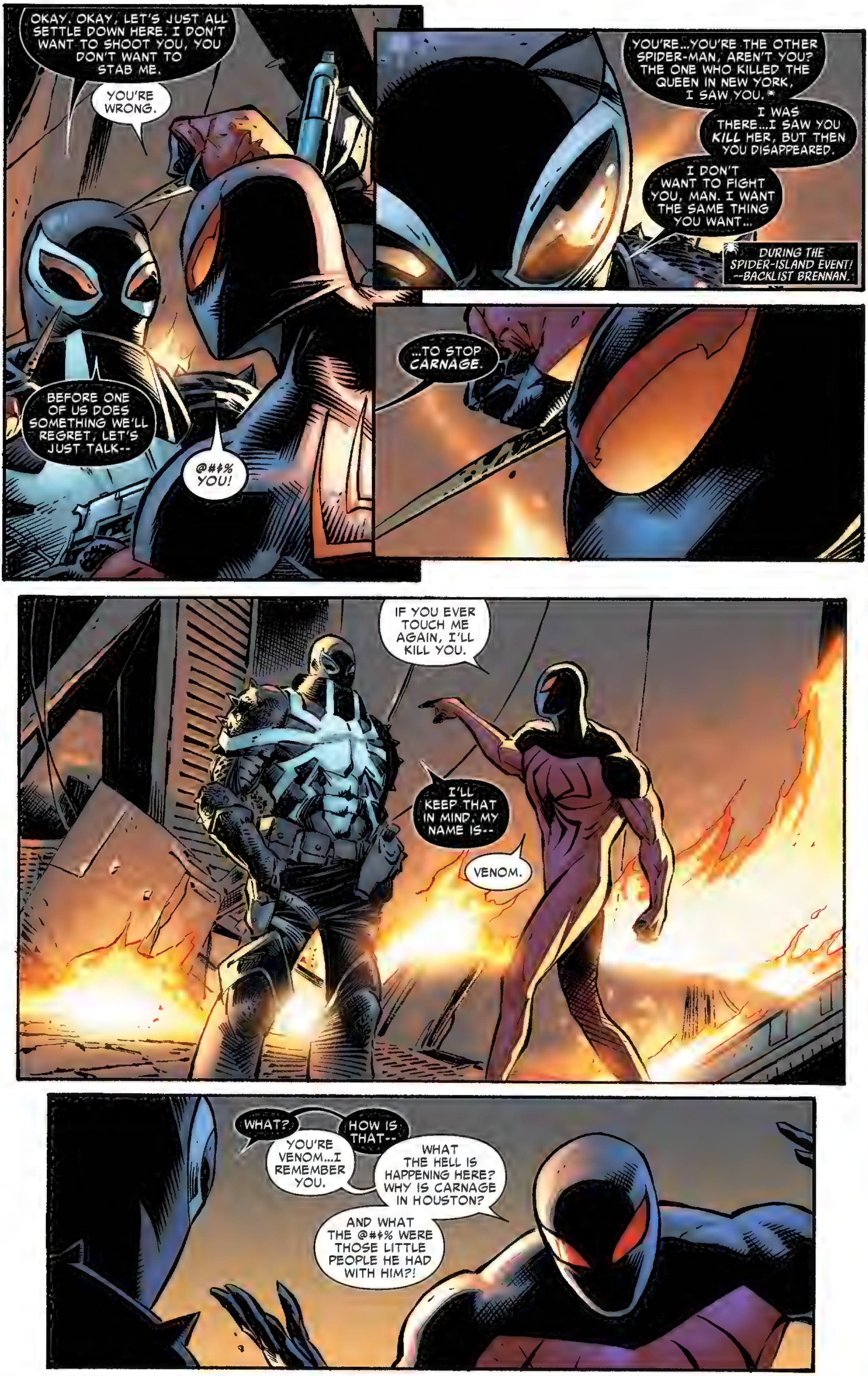

The NASA LBJ Space Center. Houston, Texas.
THEY'RE DEAD.
EVERY SECURITY GUARD. EVERY SCIENTIST. EVERY SINGLE PERSON HERE... THEY'RE ALL DEAD.
HEAD IS POUNDING. MY ENTIRE BODY FEELS LIKE IT'S ON FIRE... IT'S NOT THE PAIN. IT'S THE RAGE.
HAVEN'T FELT LIKE THIS SINCE... SINCE BEFORE.
SINCE REILLY.
I CAME HERE TO STOP A KILLER, AND FOUND A MONSTER. I TRIED TO STOP IT AND I FAILED.
THE BLOOD. IT'S ALL ON MY HANDS.
EVERYTHING CARNAGE DID, HE DID BECAUSE I COULDN'T STOP HIM.
KILL YOU. I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
I'M GOING TO--
STEP AWAY FROM THE PIT!
GET DOWN ON THE GROUND AND PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!
SHUK!
SHUK!
--KILL YOU.

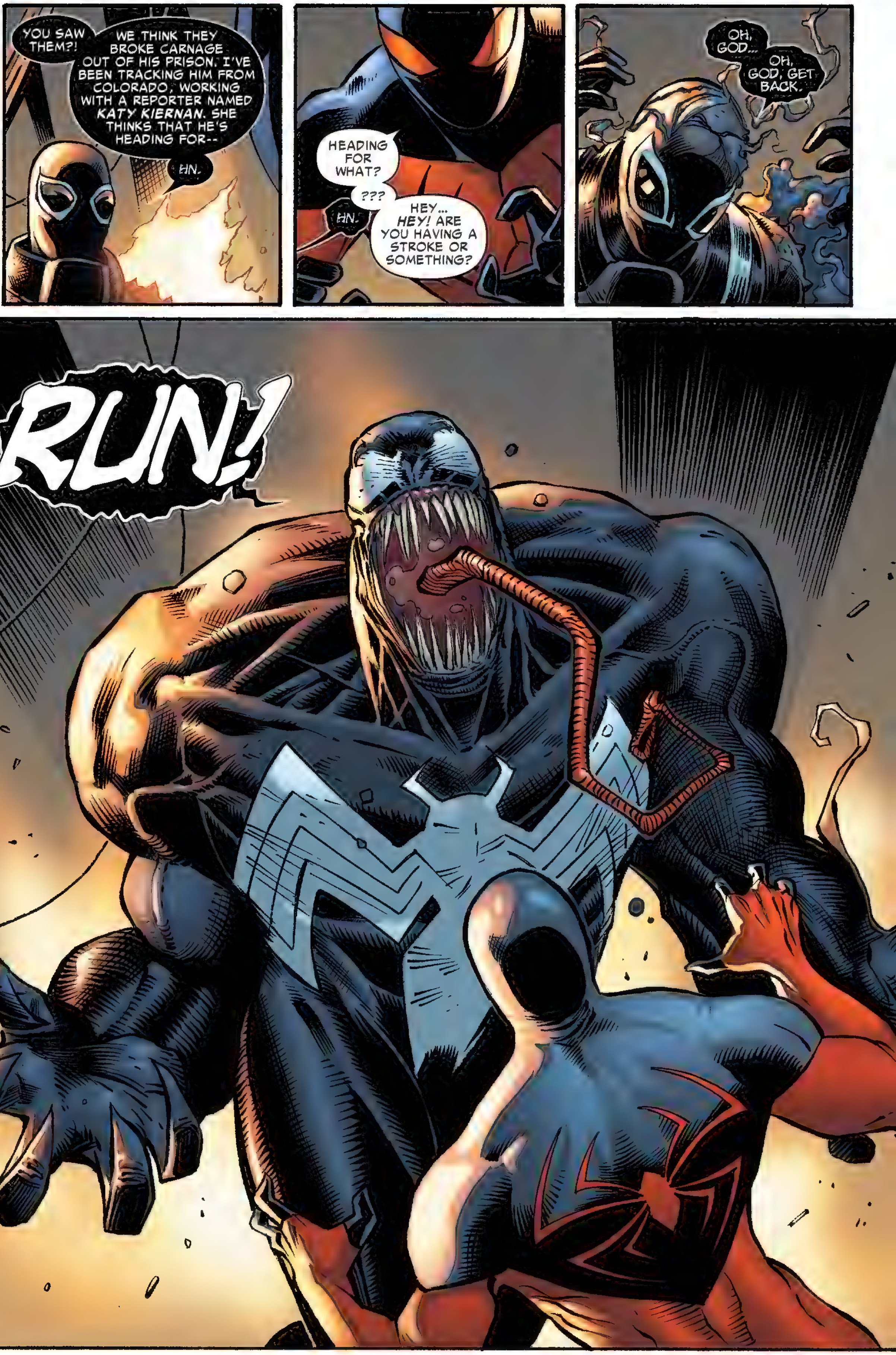

YOU MAY WANT TO RETHINK THAT.

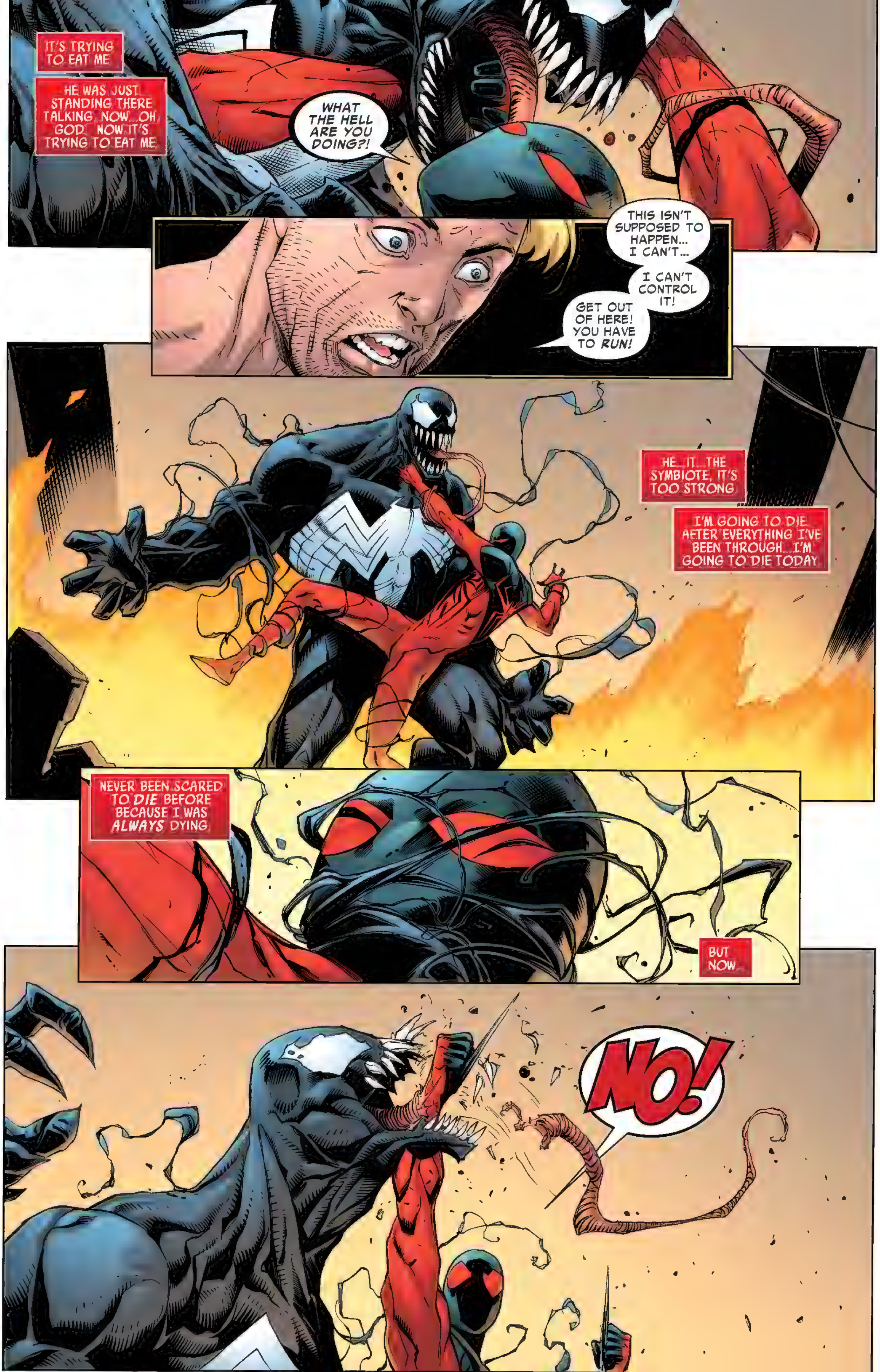
Marvel Comics
Proudly Presents

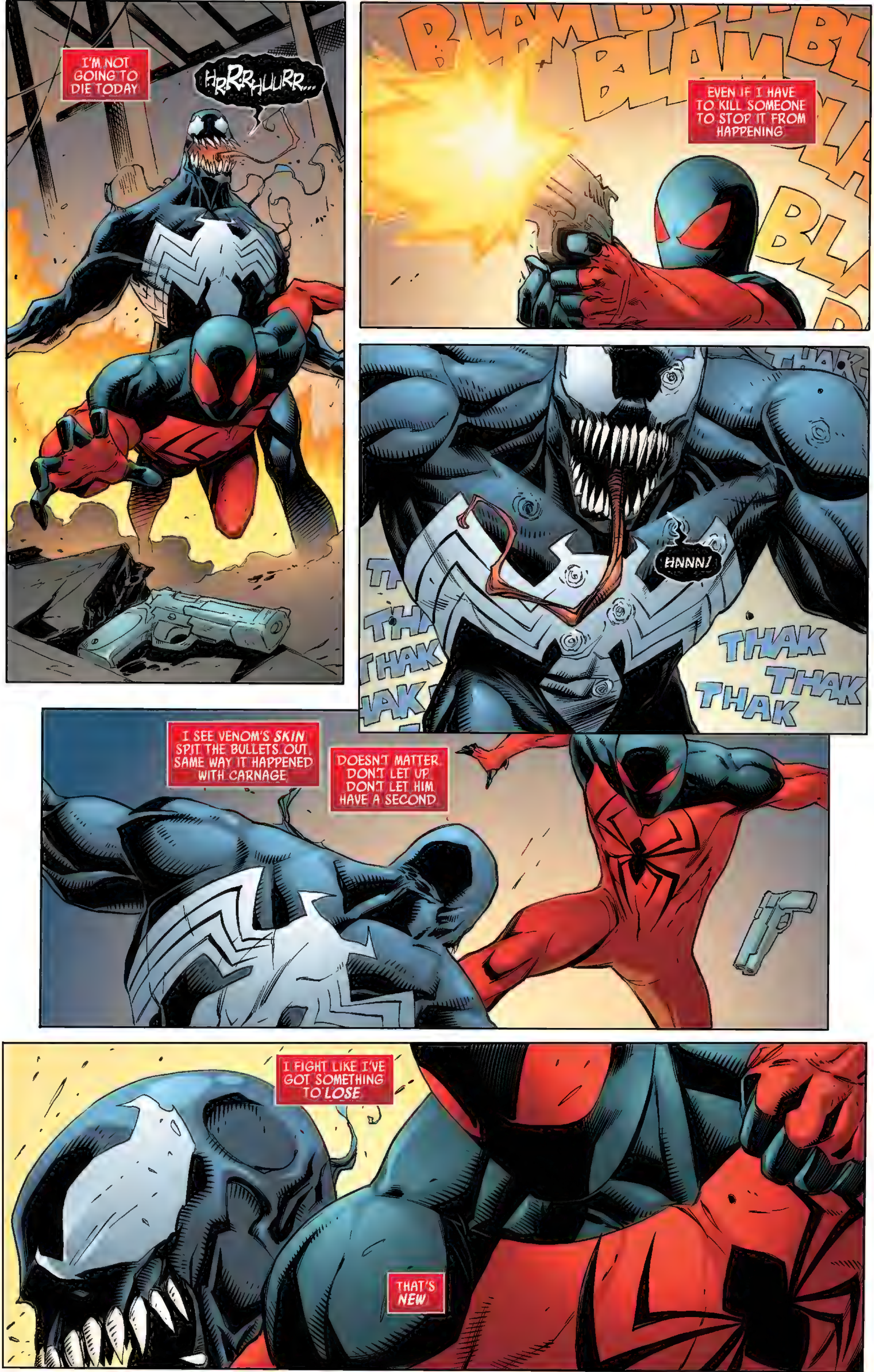
MINIMUM CARNAGE

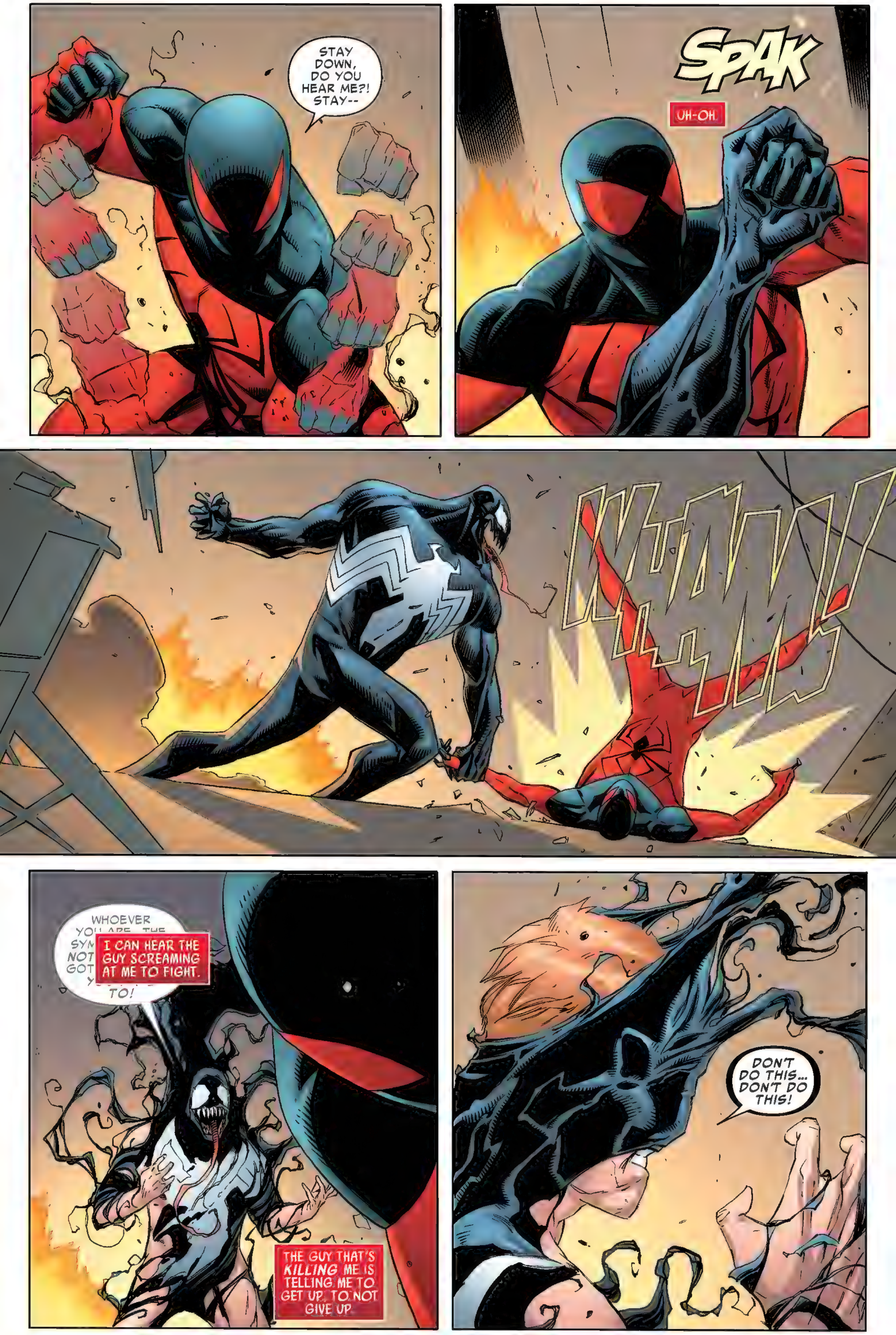
PART 2: INNER SPACE

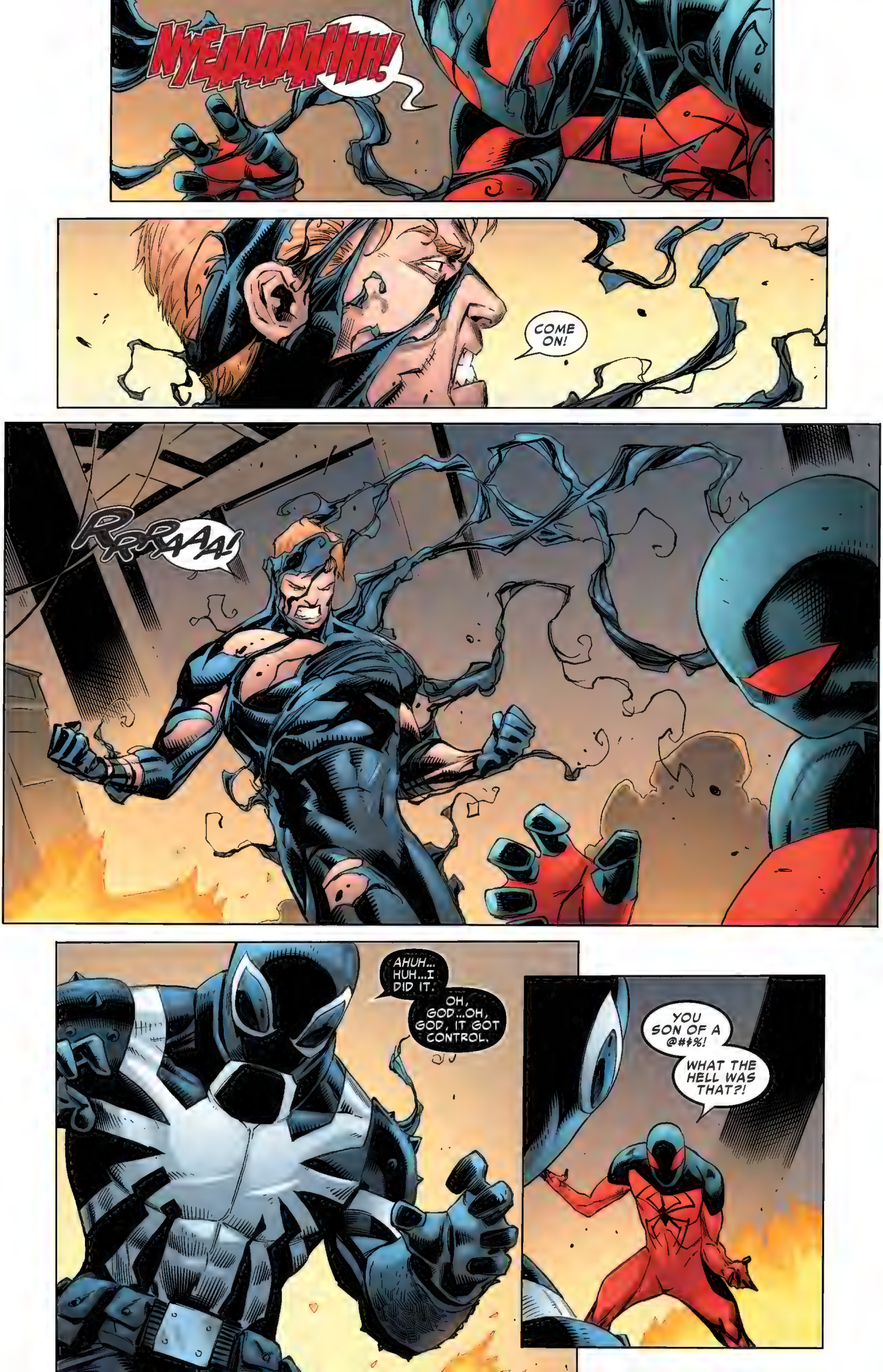

OKAY. OKAY, LET'S JUST ALL SETTLE DOWN HERE. I DON'T WANT TO SHOOT YOU, YOU DON'T WANT TO STAB ME.
YOU'RE WRONG.
BEFORE ONE OF US DOES SOMETHING WE'LL REGRET, LET'S JUST TALK--
@#$% YOU!
YOU'RE...YOU'RE THE OTHER SPIDER-MAN, AREN'T YOU? THE ONE WHO KILLED THE QUEEN IN NEW YORK, I SAW YOU.*
I WAS THERE...I SAW YOU KILL HER, BUT THEN YOU DISAPPEARED.
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU, MAN. I WANT THE SAME THING YOU WANT...
*DURING THE SPIDER-ISLAND EVENT! --BACKLIST BRENNAN.
...TO STOP CARNAGE.
IF YOU EVER TOUCH ME AGAIN, I'LL KILL YOU.
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND. MY NAME IS--
VENOM.
WHAT?
HOW IS THAT--
YOU'RE VENOM...I REMEMBER YOU.
WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING HERE? WHY IS CARNAGE IN HOUSTON?
AND WHAT THE @#$% WERE THOSE LITTLE PEOPLE HE HAD WITH HIM?!

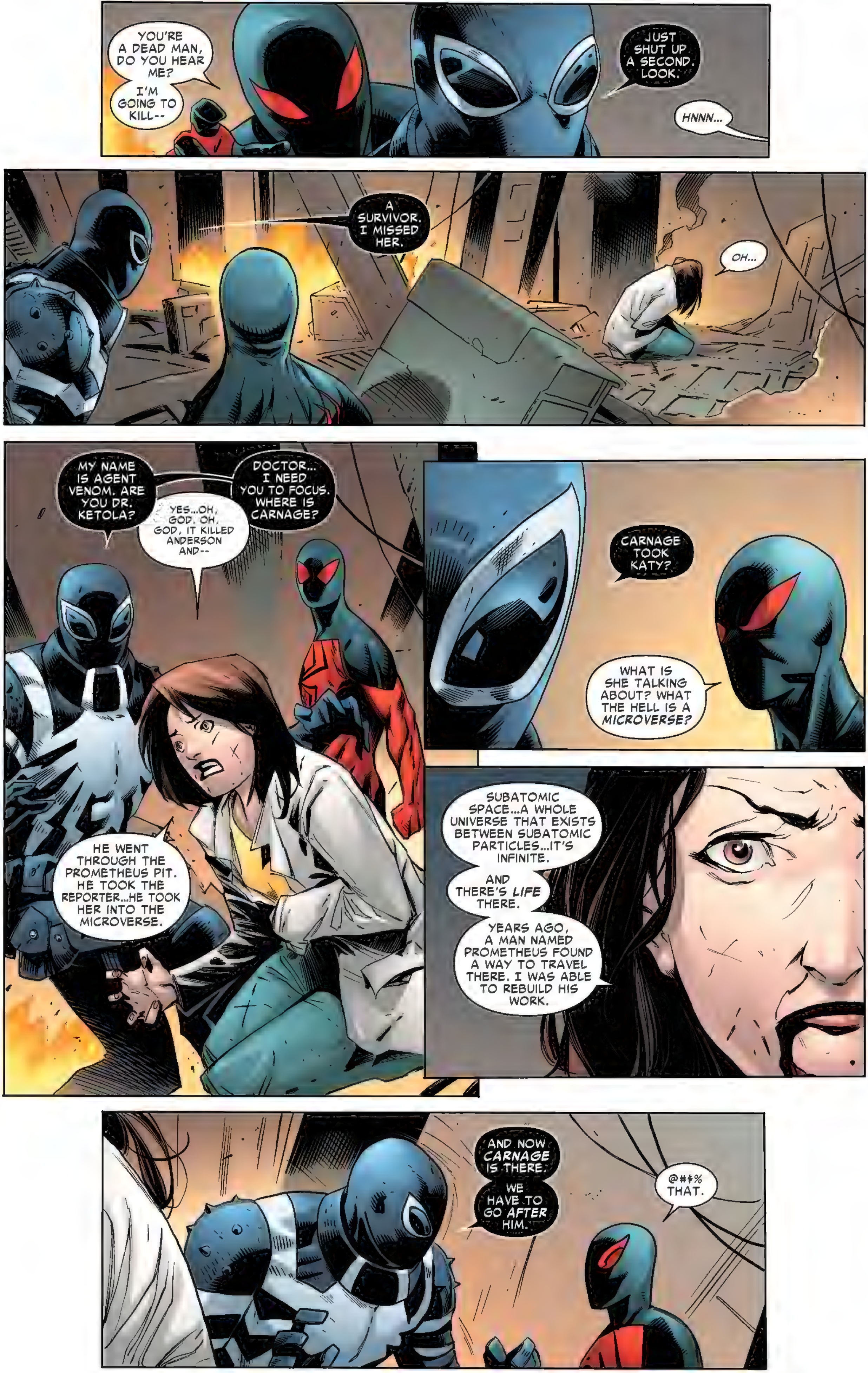

YOU SAW THEM?!
WE THINK THEY BROKE CARNAGE OUT OF HIS PRISON. I'VE BEEN TRACKING HIM FROM COLORADO, WORKING WITH A REPORTER NAMED ***KATY KIERNAN.*** SHE THINKS THAT HE'S HEADING FOR--
HN.
HEADING FOR WHAT?
???
HN.
HEY... ***HEY!*** ARE YOU HAVING A STROKE OR SOMETHING?
OH, GOD...
OH, GOD, GET BACK.
RUN!

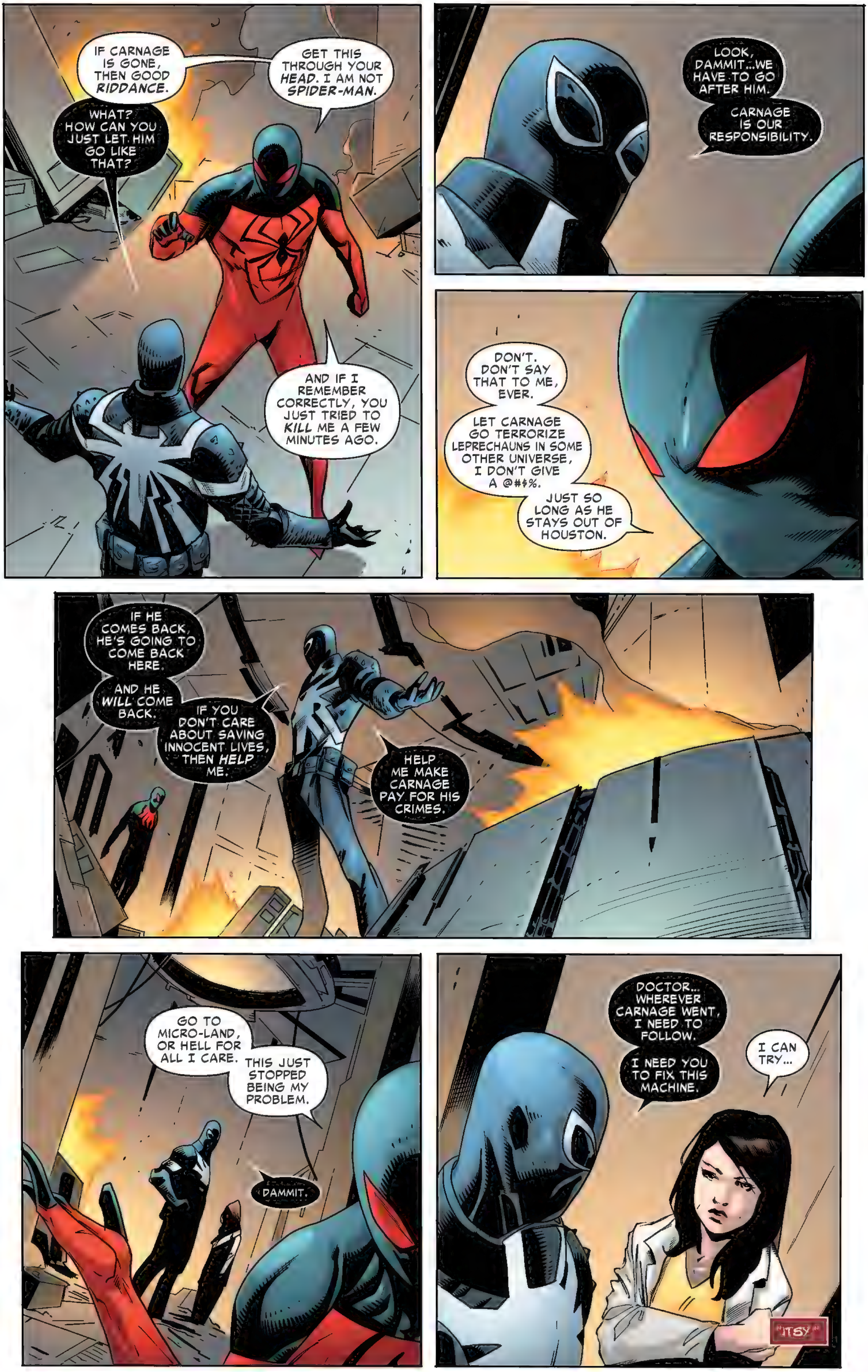

IT'S TRYING TO EAT ME
HE WAS JUST STANDING THERE TALKING. NOW...OH GOD. NOW IT'S TRYING TO EAT ME
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN... I CAN'T...
I CAN'T CONTROL IT!
GET OUT OF HERE! YOU HAVE TO *RUN!*
HE...IT...THE SYMBIOTE. IT'S TOO STRONG
I'M GOING TO DIE AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN THROUGH. I'M GOING TO DIE TODAY
NEVER BEEN SCARED TO *DIE* BEFORE BECAUSE I WAS *ALWAYS* DYING
BUT NOW.
NO!

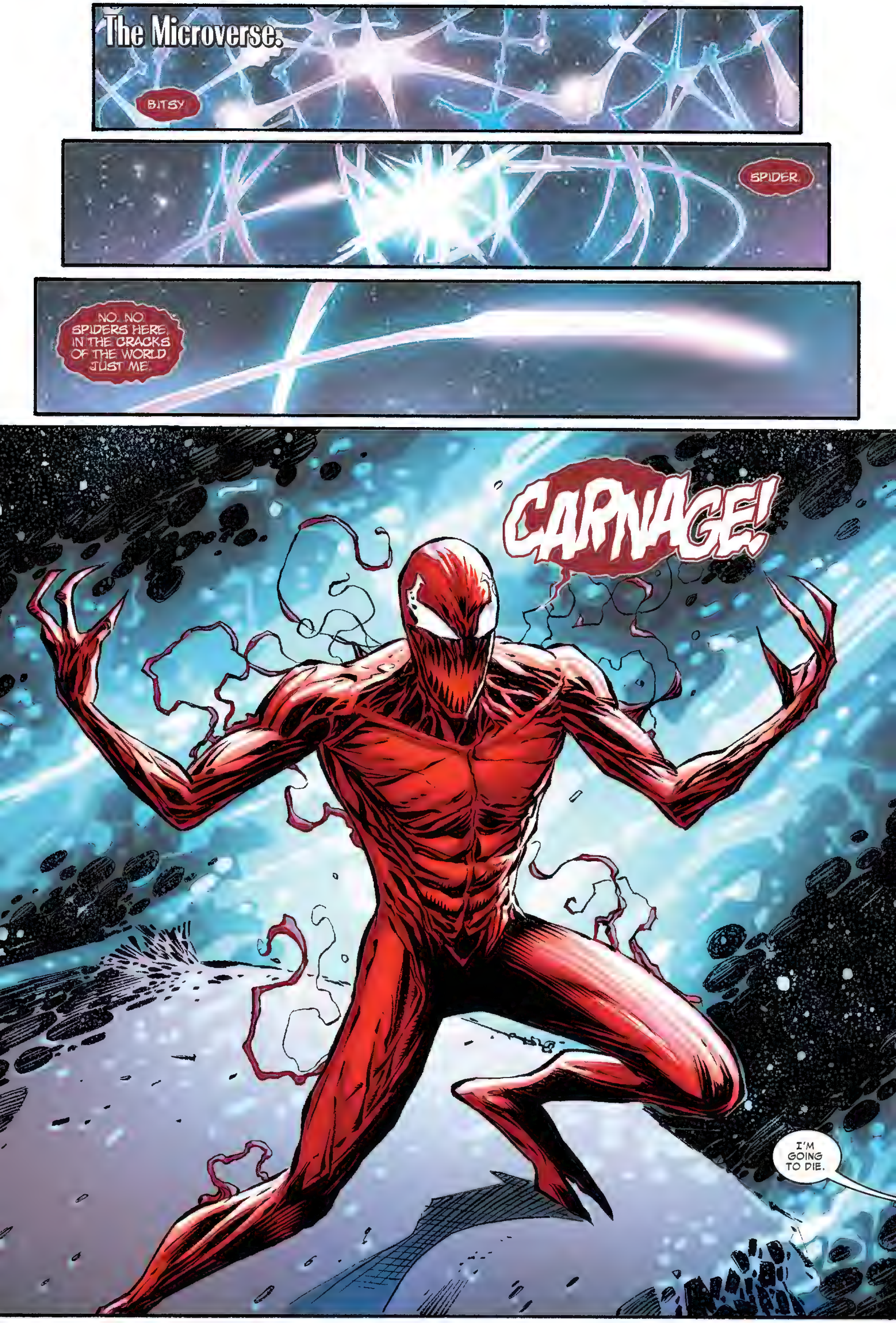

I'M NOT GOING TO DIE TODAY
HRRRHUURR...
BLAM
BLAM
EVEN IF I HAVE TO KILL SOMEONE TO STOP IT FROM HAPPENING
THAK
HNNN!
THAK
THAK
THAK
THAK
THAK
I SEE VENOM'S SKIN SPIT THE BULLETS OUT SAME WAY IT HAPPENED WITH CARNAGE
DOESN'T MATTER DON'T LET UP DON'T LET HIM HAVE A SECOND
I FIGHT LIKE I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO LOSE
THAT'S NEW

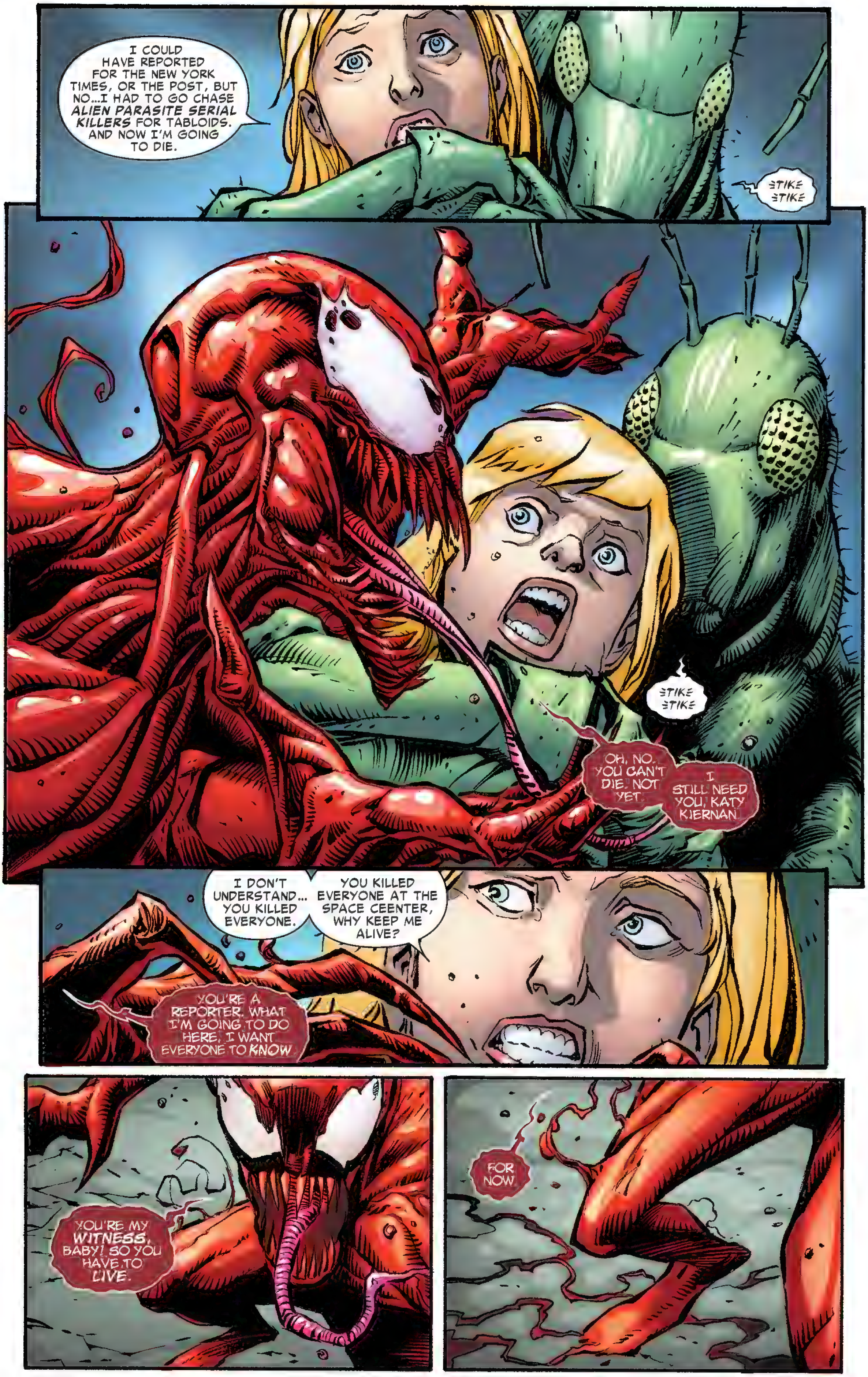

STAY DOWN, DO YOU HEAR ME?! STAY--
SPAK
UH-OH.
WHOEVER YOU ARE, THE SYM NOT GOT Y TO!
I CAN HEAR THE GUY SCREAMING AT ME TO FIGHT.
THE GUY THAT'S *KILLING* ME IS TELLING ME TO GET UP. TO NOT GIVE UP.
DON'T DO THIS... DON'T DO THIS!

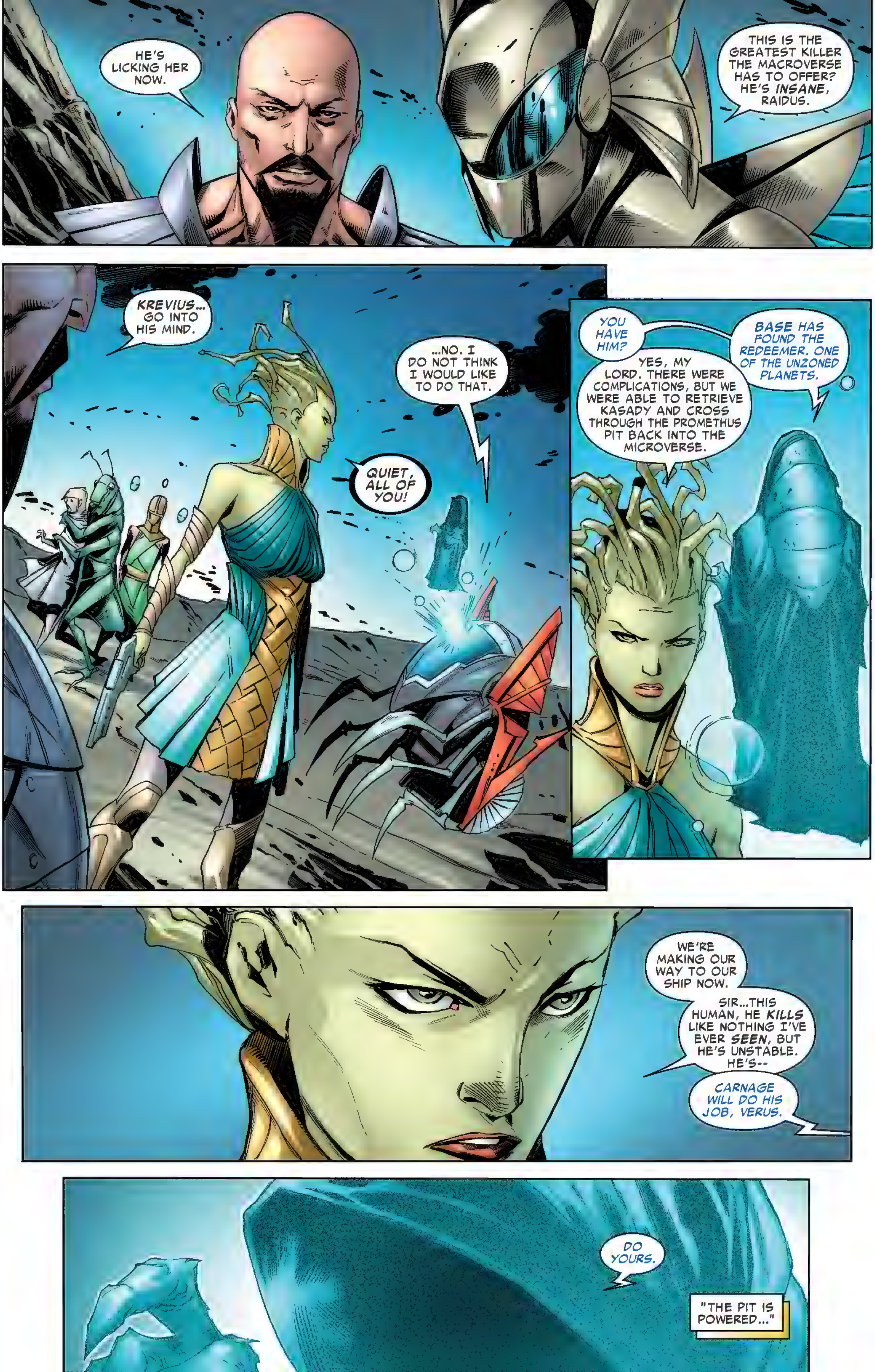

NYEAAAAAHHH!
COME ON!
RRRAAAA!
AHUH... HUH...I DID IT.
OH, GOD...OH, GOD, IT GOT CONTROL.
YOU SON OF A @#$%!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!

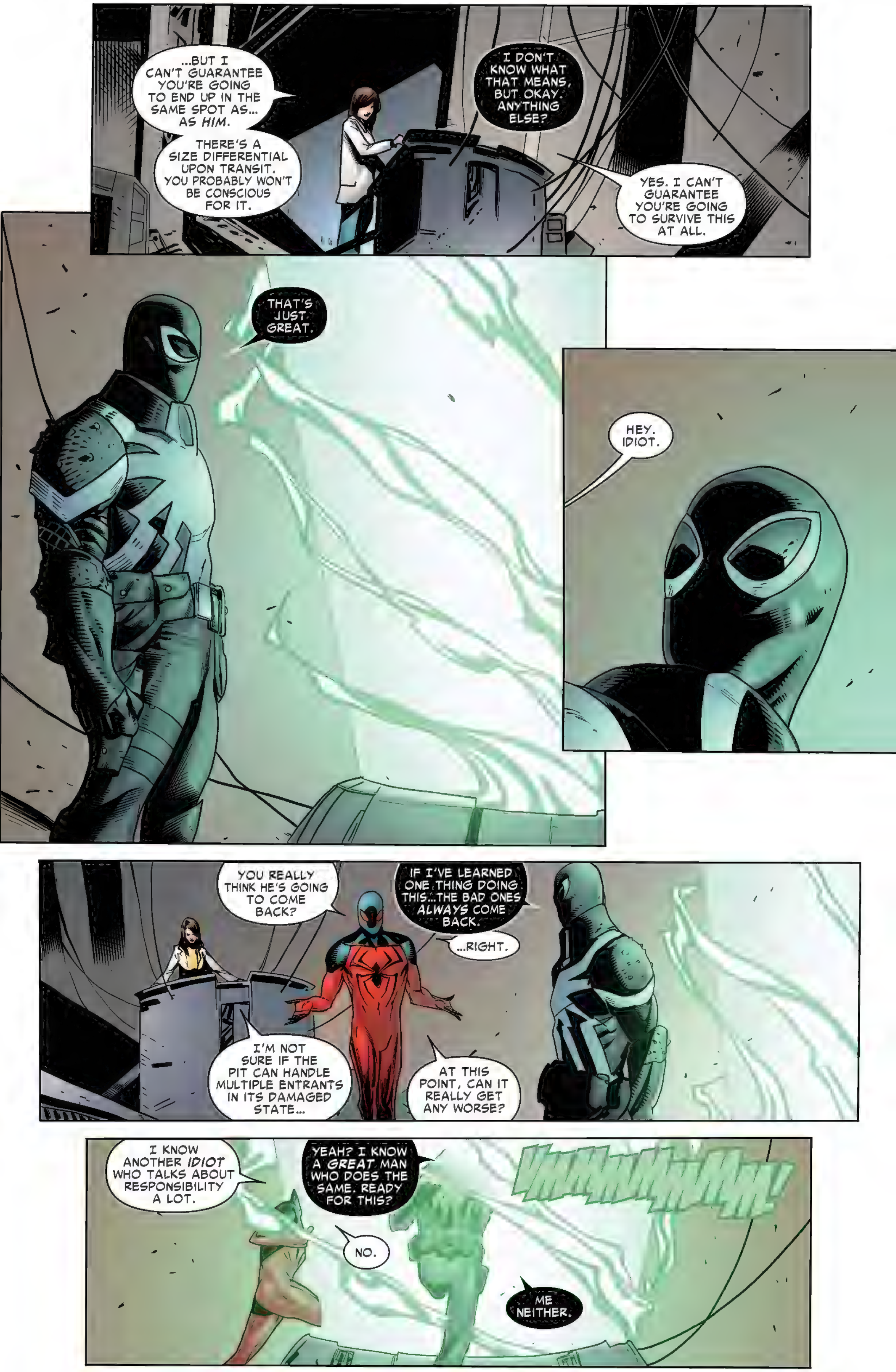

YOU'RE A DEAD MAN, DO YOU HEAR ME?
I'M GOING TO KILL--
JUST SHUT UP A SECOND. LOOK.
HNNN...
A SURVIVOR. I MISSED HER.
OH...
MY NAME IS AGENT VENOM. ARE YOU DR. KETOLA?
YES...OH, GOD. OH, GOD, IT KILLED ANDERSON AND--
DOCTOR... I NEED YOU TO FOCUS. WHERE IS CARNAGE?
HE WENT THROUGH THE PROMETHEUS PIT. HE TOOK THE REPORTER...HE TOOK HER INTO THE MICROVERSE.
CARNAGE TOOK KATY?
WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT? WHAT THE HELL IS A *MICROVERSE?*
SUBATOMIC SPACE...A WHOLE UNIVERSE THAT EXISTS BETWEEN SUBATOMIC PARTICLES...IT'S INFINITE.
AND THERE'S *LIFE* THERE.
YEARS AGO, A MAN NAMED PROMETHEUS FOUND A WAY TO TRAVEL THERE. I WAS ABLE TO REBUILD HIS WORK.
AND NOW *CARNAGE* IS THERE.
WE HAVE TO GO *AFTER* HIM.
@#$% THAT.

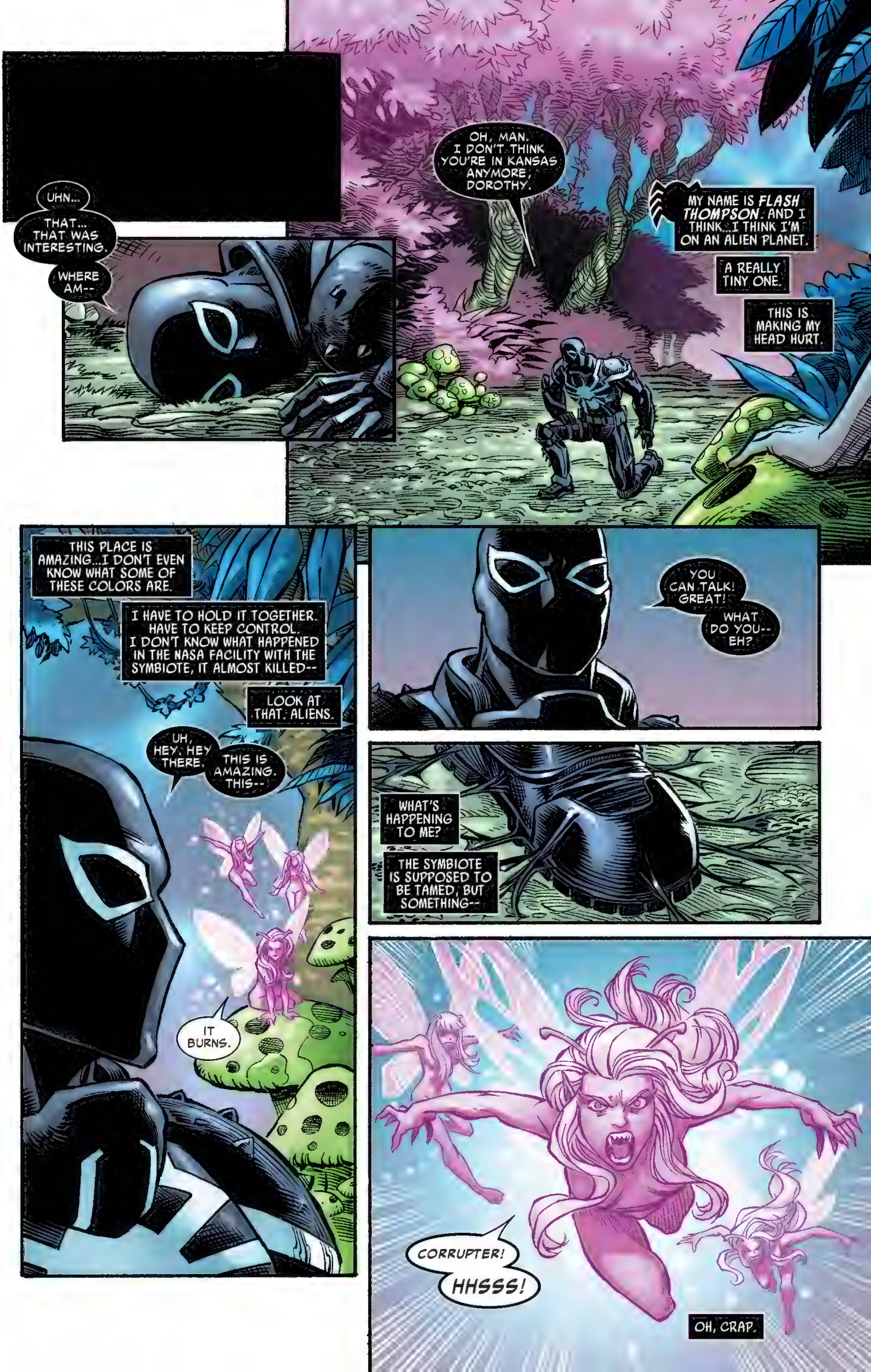

IF CARNAGE IS GONE, THEN GOOD *RIDDANCE.*
WHAT? HOW CAN YOU JUST LET HIM GO LIKE THAT?
GET THIS THROUGH YOUR *HEAD.* I AM NOT *SPIDER-MAN.*
AND IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU JUST TRIED TO *KILL* ME A FEW MINUTES AGO.
LOOK, DAMMIT...WE HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM.
CARNAGE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY.
DON'T. DON'T SAY THAT TO ME, EVER.
LET CARNAGE GO TERRORIZE LEPRECHAUNS IN SOME OTHER UNIVERSE, I DON'T GIVE A @#$%.
JUST SO LONG AS HE STAYS OUT OF HOUSTON.
IF HE COMES BACK, HE'S GOING TO COME BACK HERE.
AND HE *WILL* COME BACK.
IF YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT SAVING INNOCENT LIVES, THEN *HELP* ME.
HELP ME MAKE CARNAGE PAY FOR HIS CRIMES.
GO TO MICRO-LAND, OR HELL FOR ALL I CARE.
THIS JUST STOPPED BEING MY PROBLEM.
DAMMIT.
DOCTOR... WHEREVER CARNAGE WENT, I NEED TO FOLLOW.
I NEED YOU TO FIX THIS MACHINE.
I CAN TRY...
"ITSY"

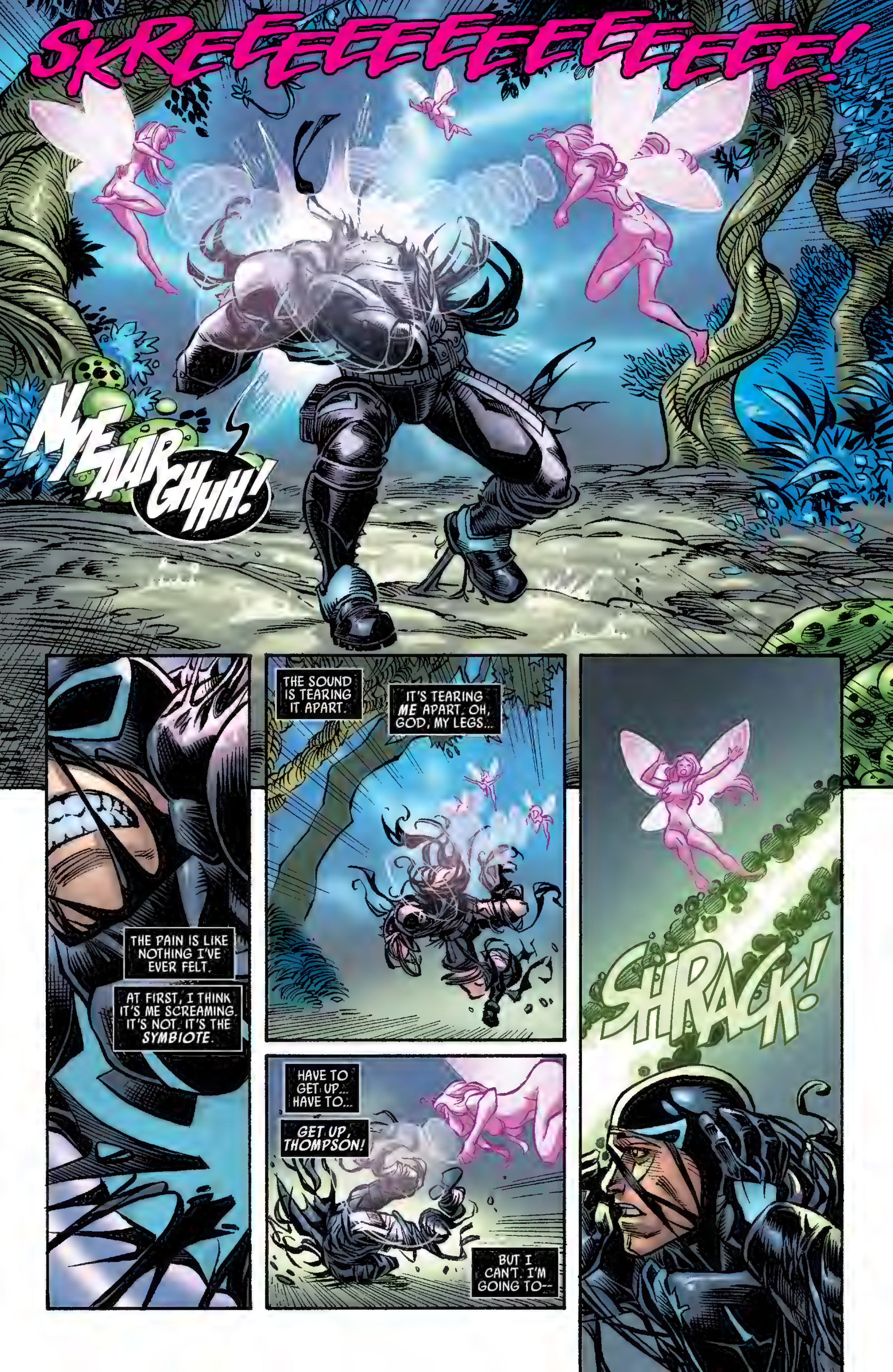

The Microverse.
BITSY.
SPIDER.
NO. NO. SPIDERS HERE. IN THE CRACKS OF THE WORLD. JUST ME.
CARNAGE!
I'M GOING TO DIE.

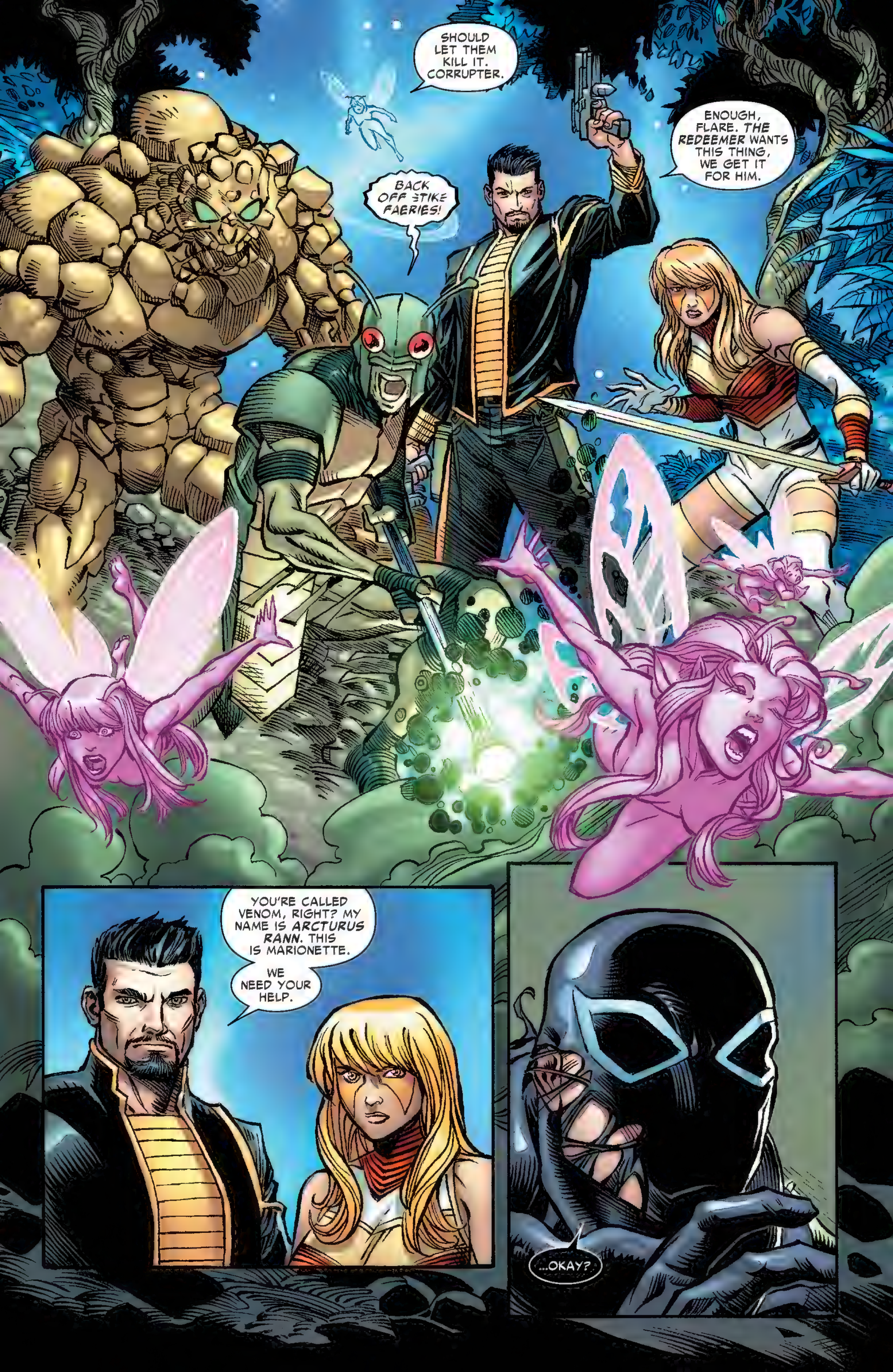

I COULD HAVE REPORTED FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES, OR THE POST, BUT NO...I HAD TO GO CHASE *ALIEN PARASITE SERIAL KILLERS* FOR TABLOIDS. AND NOW I'M GOING TO DIE.
TIKE TIKE
TIKE TIKE
OH, NO. YOU CAN'T DIE. NOT YET.
I STILL NEED YOU, KATY KIERNAN.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... YOU KILLED EVERYONE.
YOU KILLED EVERYONE AT THE SPACE CEENTER, WHY KEEP ME ALIVE?
YOU'RE A REPORTER. WHAT I'M GOING TO DO HERE, I WANT EVERYONE TO *KNOW*.
YOU'RE MY *WITNESS*, BABY! SO YOU HAVE TO *LIVE*.
FOR NOW.


HE'S LICKING HER NOW.
THIS IS THE GREATEST KILLER THE MACROVERSE HAS TO OFFER? HE'S *INSANE*, RAIDUS.
KREVIUS... GO INTO HIS MIND.
...NO. I DO NOT THINK I WOULD LIKE TO DO THAT.
QUIET, ALL OF YOU!
BASE HAS FOUND THE REDEEMER. ONE OF THE UNZONED PLANETS.
YOU HAVE HIM?
YES, MY LORD. THERE WERE COMPLICATIONS, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO RETRIEVE KASADY AND CROSS THROUGH THE PROMETHUS PIT BACK INTO THE MICROVERSE.
WE'RE MAKING OUR WAY TO OUR SHIP NOW.
SIR...THIS HUMAN, HE *KILLS* LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER *SEEN*, BUT HE'S UNSTABLE. HE'S--
CARNAGE WILL DO HIS JOB, VERUS.
DO YOURS.
"THE PIT IS POWERED..."

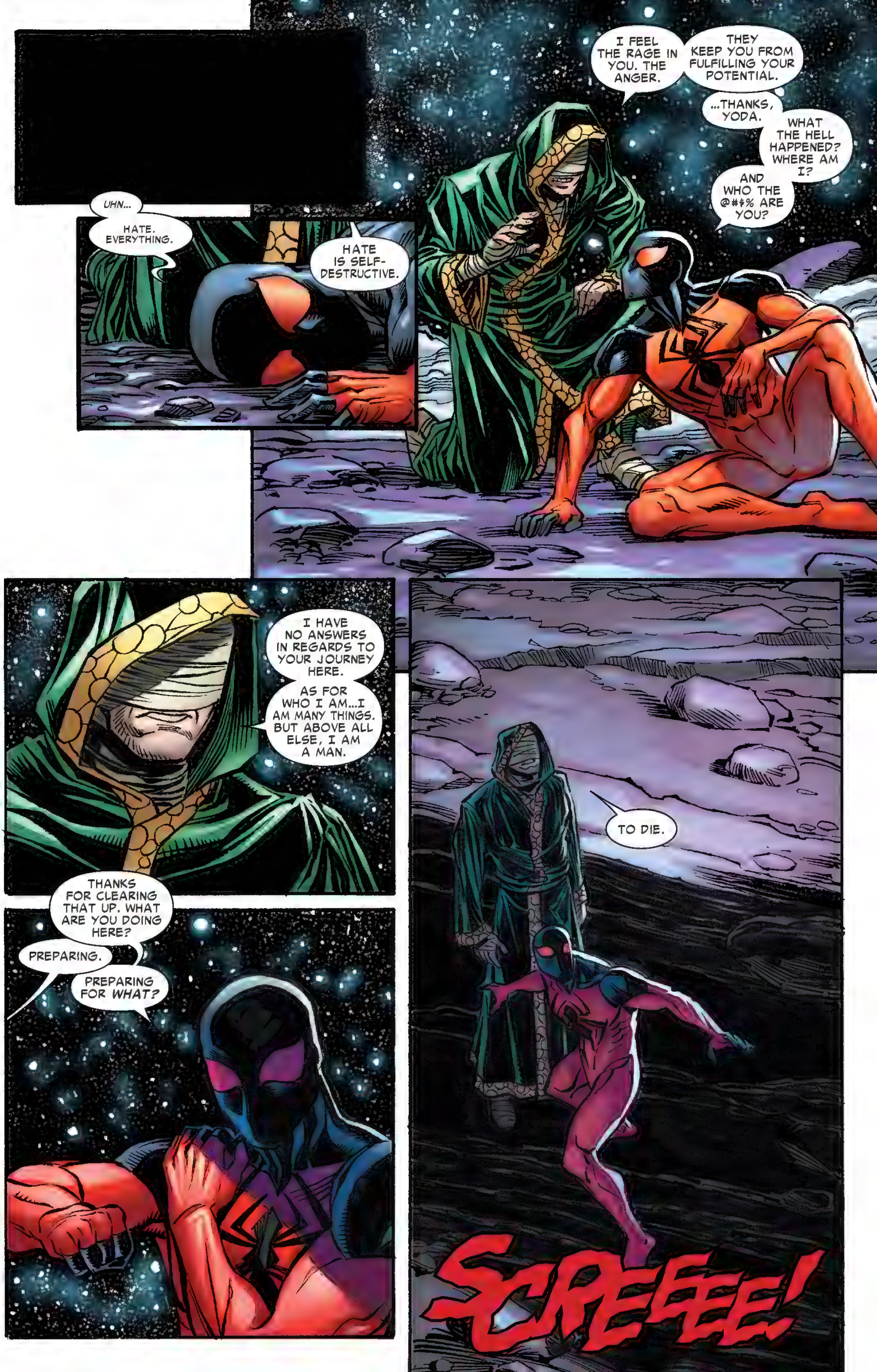

...BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOU'RE GOING TO END UP IN THE SAME SPOT AS... AS *HIM*.
THERE'S A SIZE DIFFERENTIAL UPON TRANSIT. YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE CONSCIOUS FOR IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT OKAY. ANYTHING ELSE?
YES. I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOU'RE GOING TO SURVIVE THIS AT ALL.
THAT'S JUST GREAT.
HEY. IDIOT.
YOU REALLY THINK HE'S GOING TO COME BACK?
IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING DOING THIS...THE BAD ONES *ALWAYS* COME BACK.
...RIGHT.
I'M NOT SURE IF THE PIT CAN HANDLE MULTIPLE ENTRANTS IN ITS DAMAGED STATE...
AT THIS POINT, CAN IT REALLY GET ANY WORSE?
I KNOW ANOTHER *IDIOT* WHO TALKS ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY A LOT.
YEAH? I KNOW A *GREAT* MAN WHO DOES THE SAME. READY FOR THIS?
NO.
ME NEITHER.

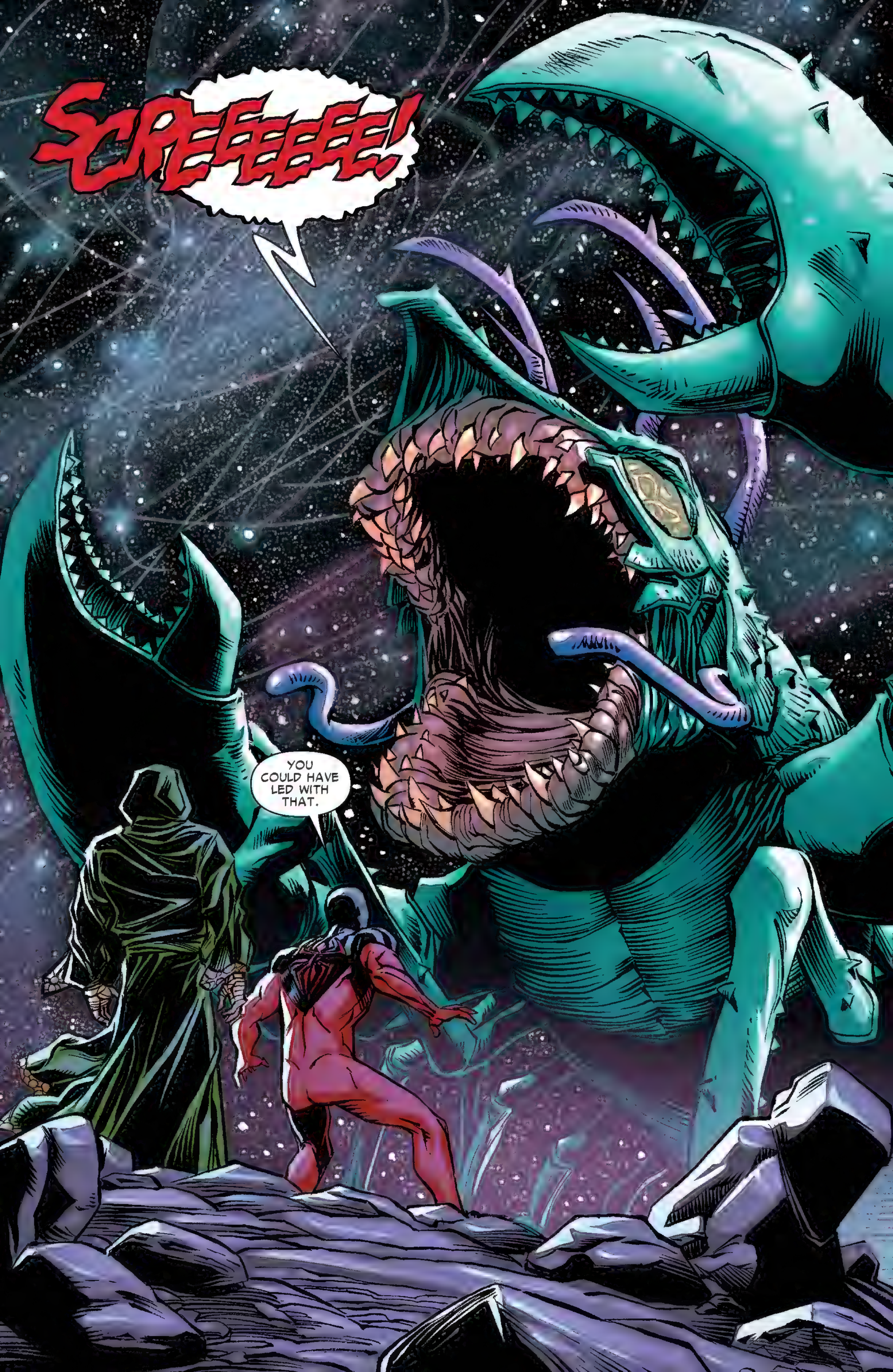

UHN...
THAT... THAT WAS INTERESTING.
WHERE AM--
OH, MAN. I DON'T THINK YOU'RE IN KANSAS ANYMORE, DOROTHY.
MY NAME IS **FLASH THOMPSON**, AND I THINK...I THINK I'M ON AN ALIEN PLANET.
A REALLY TINY ONE.
THIS IS MAKING MY HEAD HURT.
THIS PLACE IS AMAZING...I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT SOME OF THESE COLORS ARE.
I HAVE TO HOLD IT TOGETHER. HAVE TO KEEP CONTROL. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE NASA FACILITY WITH THE SYMBIOTE, IT ALMOST KILLED--
LOOK AT THAT. ALIENS.
UH, HEY. HEY THERE.
THIS IS AMAZING. THIS--
IT BURNS.
YOU CAN TALK! GREAT!
WHAT DO YOU-- EH?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
THE SYMBIOTE IS SUPPOSED TO BE TAMED, BUT SOMETHING--
CORRUPTER!
HHSSS!
OH, CRAP.


SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEE!
NYEAARGHHH!
THE PAIN IS LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER FELT.
AT FIRST, I THINK IT'S ME SCREAMING. IT'S NOT. IT'S THE SYMBIOTE.
THE SOUND IS TEARING IT APART.
IT'S TEARING ME APART. OH, GOD, MY LEGS...
HAVE TO GET UP... HAVE TO...
GET UP, THOMPSON!
BUT I CAN'T. I'M GOING TO--
SHRACK!

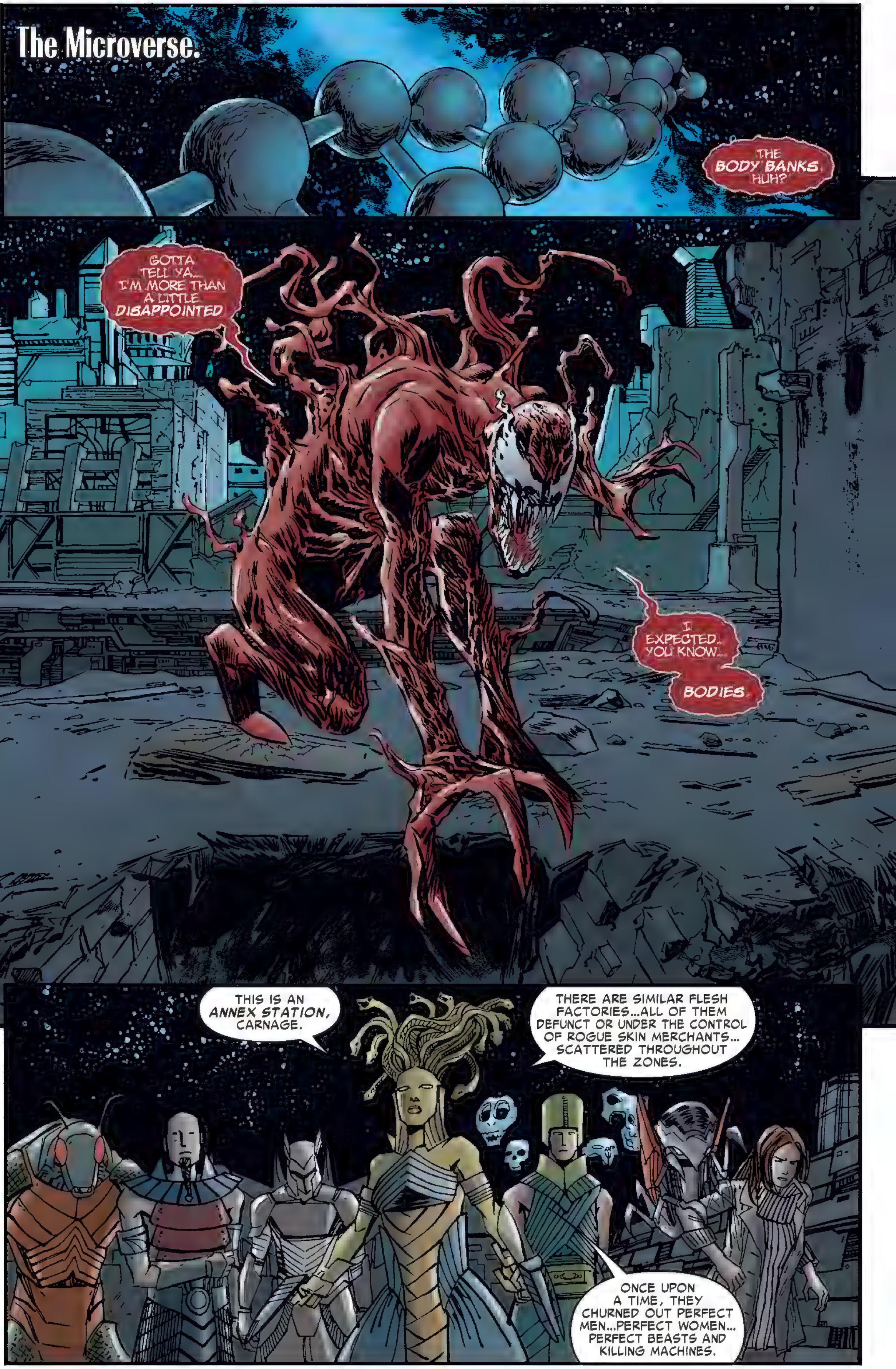

SHOULD LET THEM KILL IT. CORRUPTER.
BACK OFF ƎTIKE FAERIES!
ENOUGH, FLARE. *THE REDEEMER* WANTS THIS THING, WE GET IT FOR HIM.
YOU'RE CALLED VENOM, RIGHT? MY NAME IS *ARCTURUS RANN*. THIS IS MARIONETTE.
WE NEED YOUR HELP.
...OKAY?

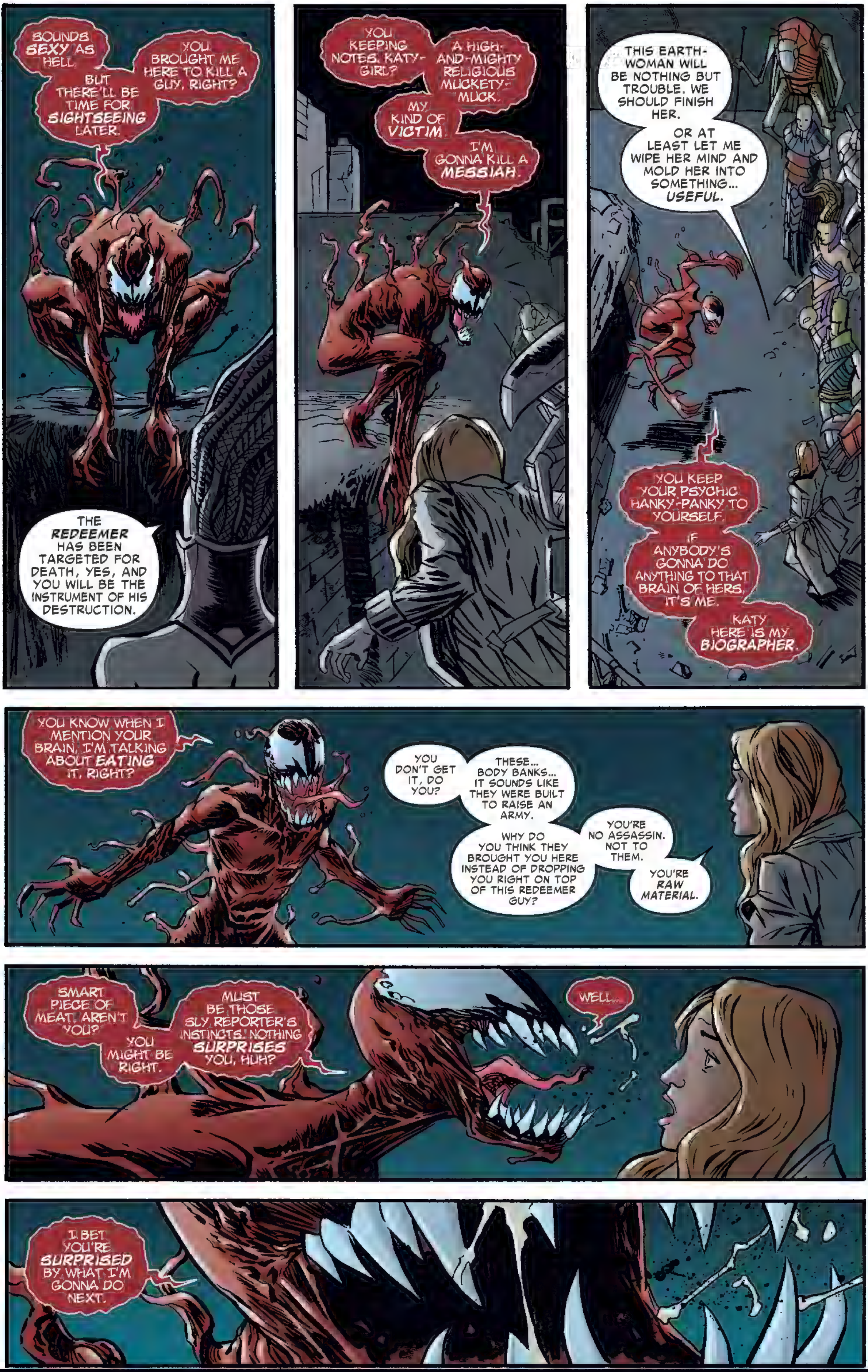
[redacted]

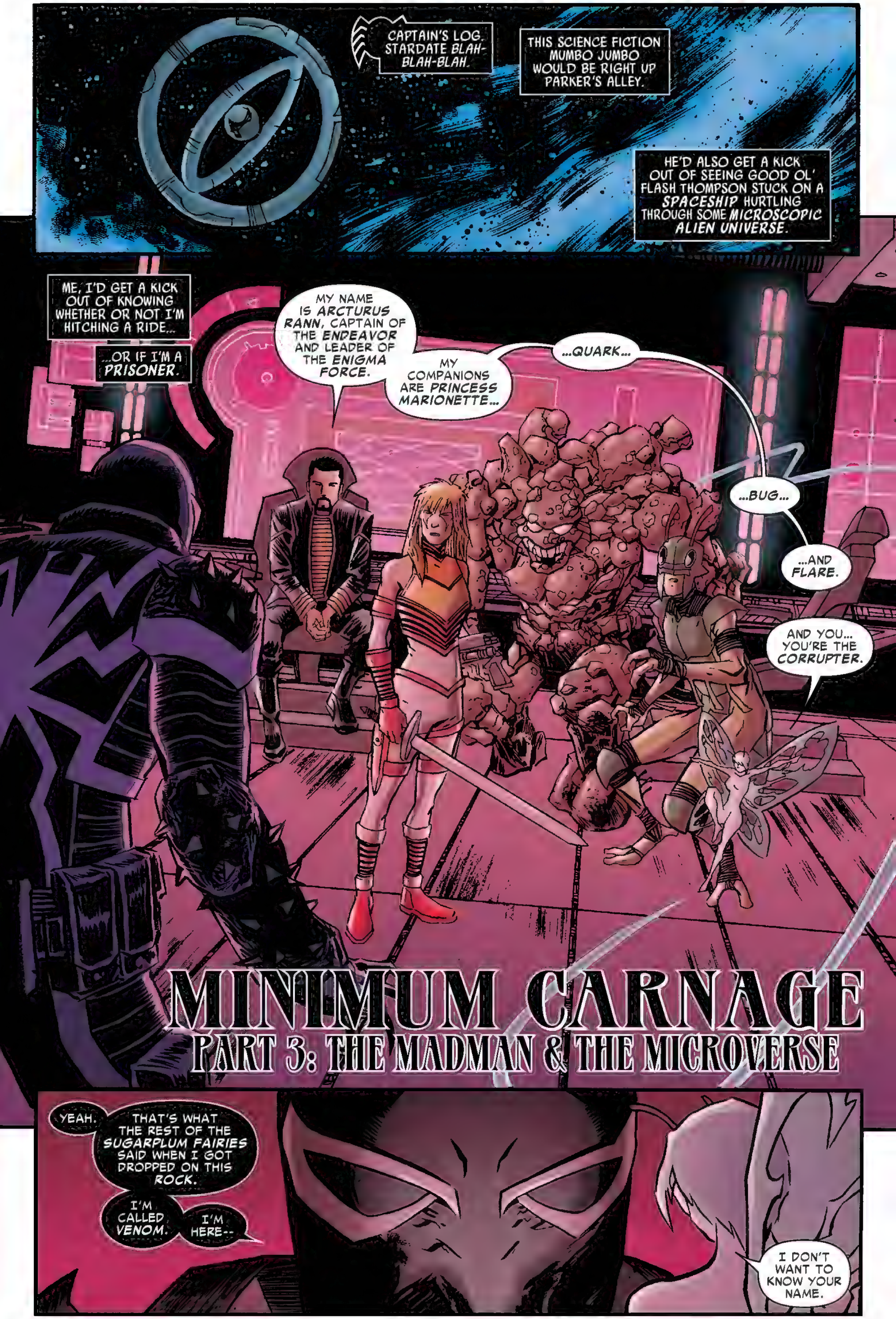

UHN...
HATE. EVERYTHING.
HATE IS SELF-DESTRUCTIVE.
I FEEL THE RAGE IN YOU. THE ANGER.
THEY KEEP YOU FROM FULFILLING YOUR POTENTIAL.
...THANKS, YODA.
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?
AND WHO THE @#$% ARE YOU?
I HAVE NO ANSWERS IN REGARDS TO YOUR JOURNEY HERE.
AS FOR WHO I AM...I AM MANY THINGS. BUT ABOVE ALL ELSE, I AM A MAN.
THANKS FOR CLEARING THAT UP. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
PREPARING.
PREPARING FOR *WHAT?*
TO DIE.
SCREEEE!

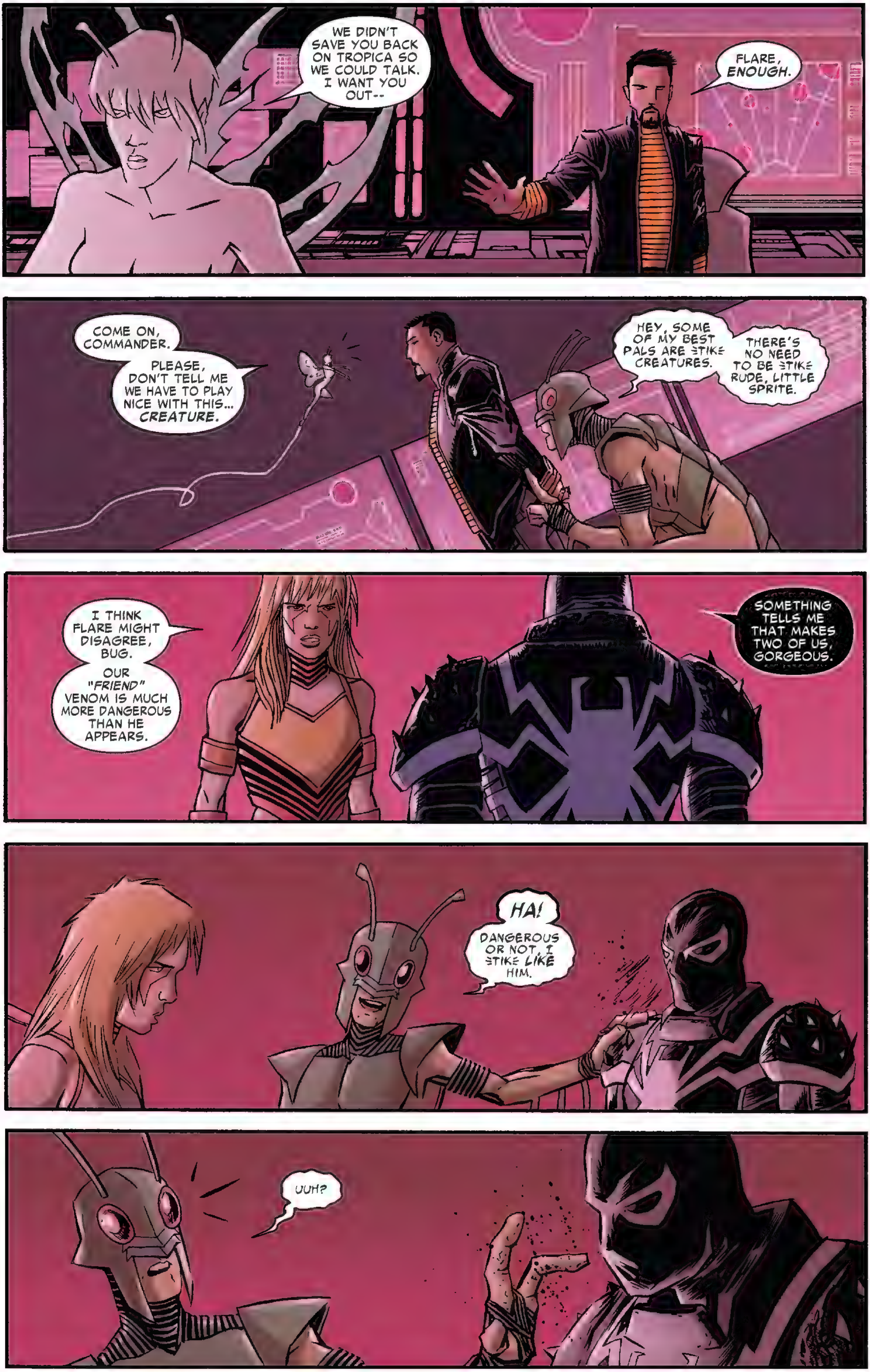

SCREEEEEE!
YOU COULD HAVE LED WITH THAT.

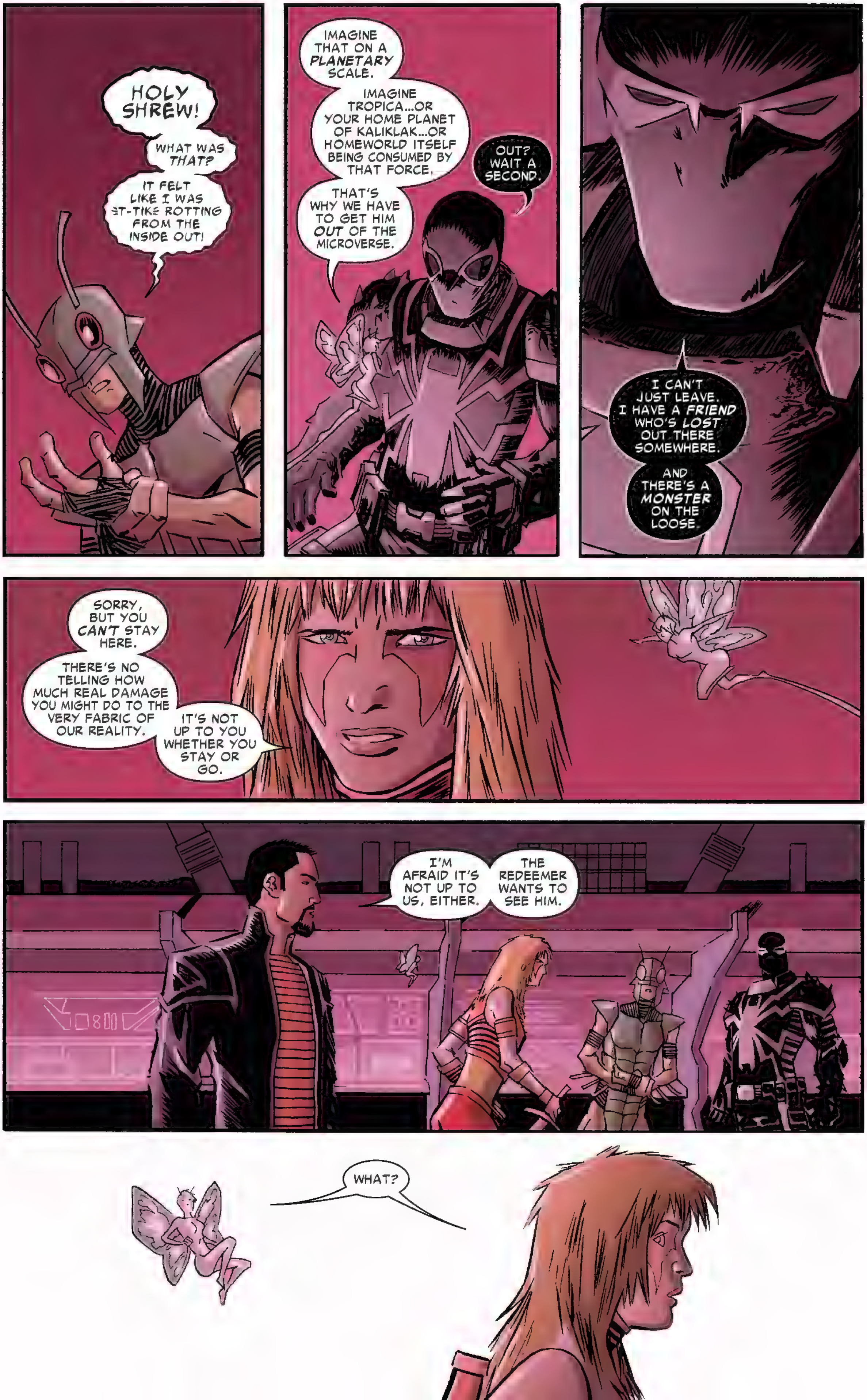
venom #26

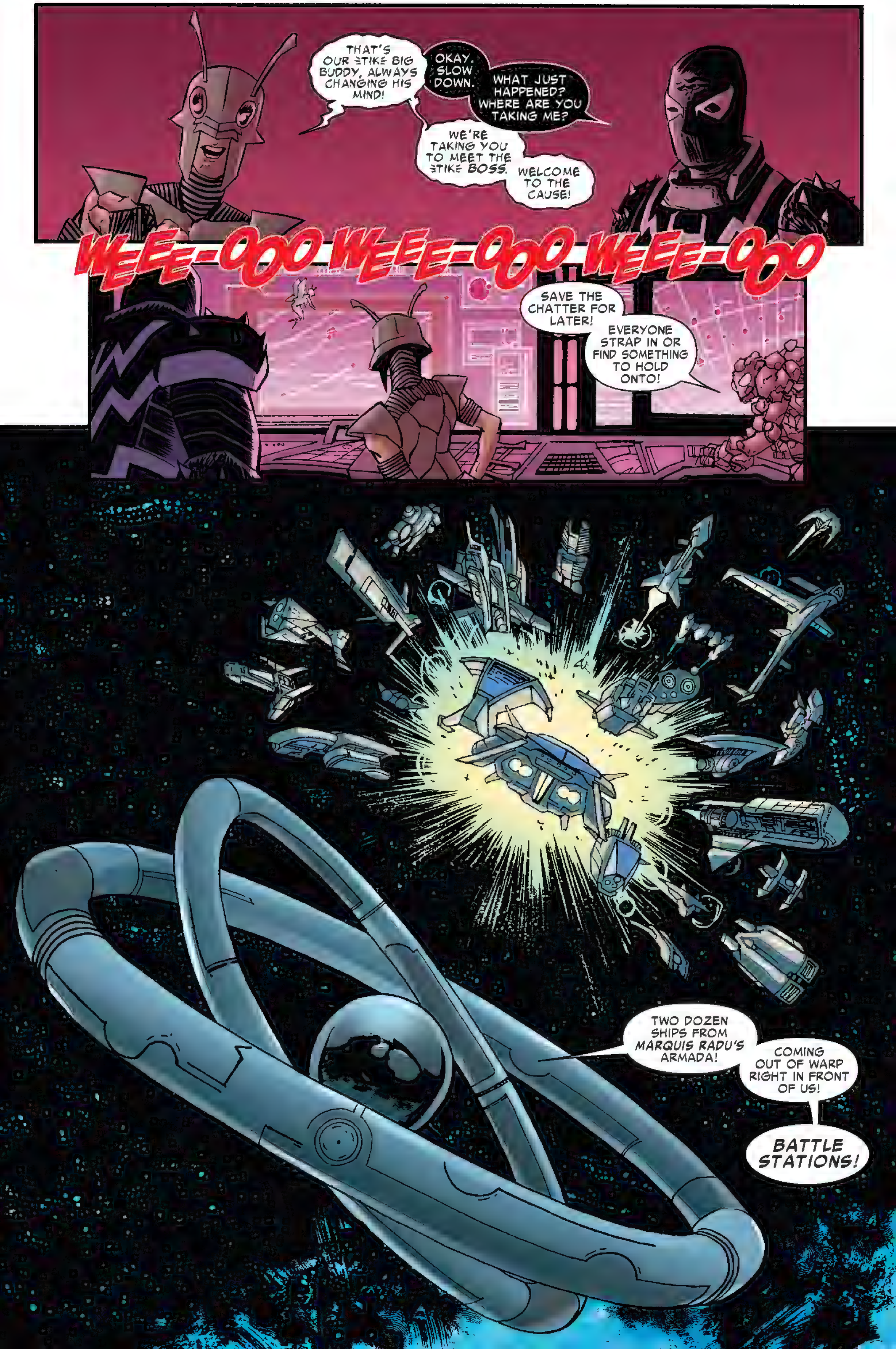

The Microverse.
THE BODY BANKS, HUH?
GOTTA TELL YA... I'M MORE THAN A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED.
I EXPECTED... YOU KNOW... BODIES.
THIS IS AN ANNEX STATION, CARNAGE.
THERE ARE SIMILAR FLESH FACTORIES...ALL OF THEM DEFUNCT OR UNDER THE CONTROL OF ROGUE SKIN MERCHANTS... SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE ZONES.
ONCE UPON A TIME, THEY CHURNED OUT PERFECT MEN...PERFECT WOMEN... PERFECT BEASTS AND KILLING MACHINES.

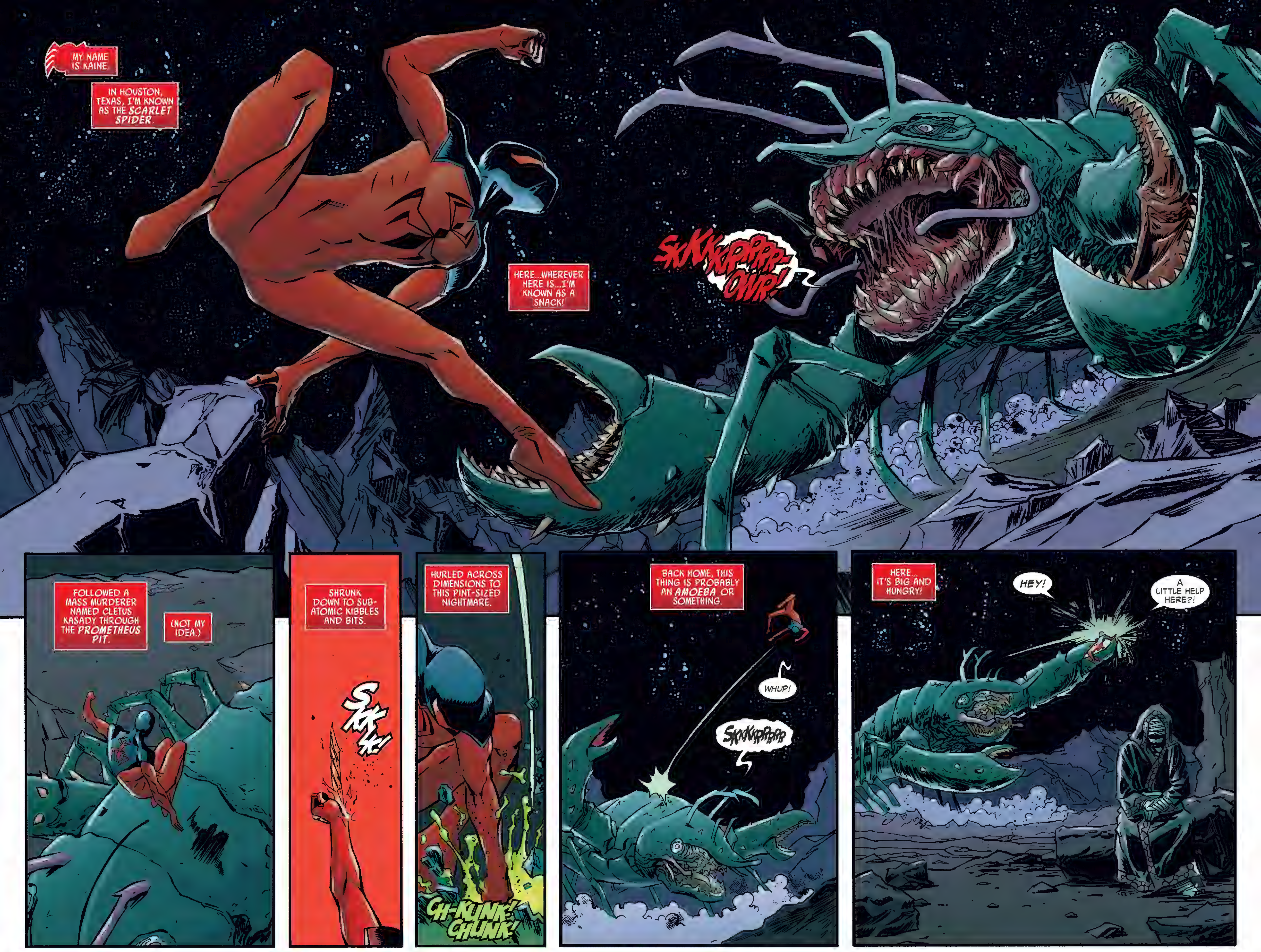

SOUNDS SEXY AS HELL.
YOU BROUGHT ME HERE TO KILL A GUY, RIGHT?
BUT THERE'LL BE TIME FOR SIGHTSEEING LATER.
THE REDEEMER HAS BEEN TARGETED FOR DEATH, YES, AND YOU WILL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF HIS DESTRUCTION.
YOU KEEPING NOTES, KATY-GIRL?
A HIGH-AND-MIGHTY RELIGIOUS MUCKETY-MUCK.
MY KIND OF VICTIM.
I'M GONNA KILL A MESSIAH.
THIS EARTH-WOMAN WILL BE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE. WE SHOULD FINISH HER.
OR AT LEAST LET ME WIPE HER MIND AND MOLD HER INTO SOMETHING... USEFUL.
YOU KEEP YOUR PSYCHIC HANKY-PANKY TO YOURSELF.
IF ANYBODY'S GONNA DO ANYTHING TO THAT BRAIN OF HERS, IT'S ME.
KATY HERE IS MY BIOGRAPHER.
YOU KNOW WHEN I MENTION YOUR BRAIN, I'M TALKING ABOUT EATING IT, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
THESE... BODY BANKS... IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY WERE BUILT TO RAISE AN ARMY.
WHY DO YOU THINK THEY BROUGHT YOU HERE INSTEAD OF DROPPING YOU RIGHT ON TOP OF THIS REDEEMER GUY?
YOU'RE NO ASSASSIN. NOT TO THEM.
YOU'RE RAW MATERIAL.
SMART PIECE OF MEAT, AREN'T YOU?
YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.
MUST BE THOSE SLY REPORTER'S INSTINCTS. NOTHING SURPRISES YOU, HUH?
WELL...
I BET YOU'RE SURPRISED BY WHAT I'M GONNA DO NEXT.

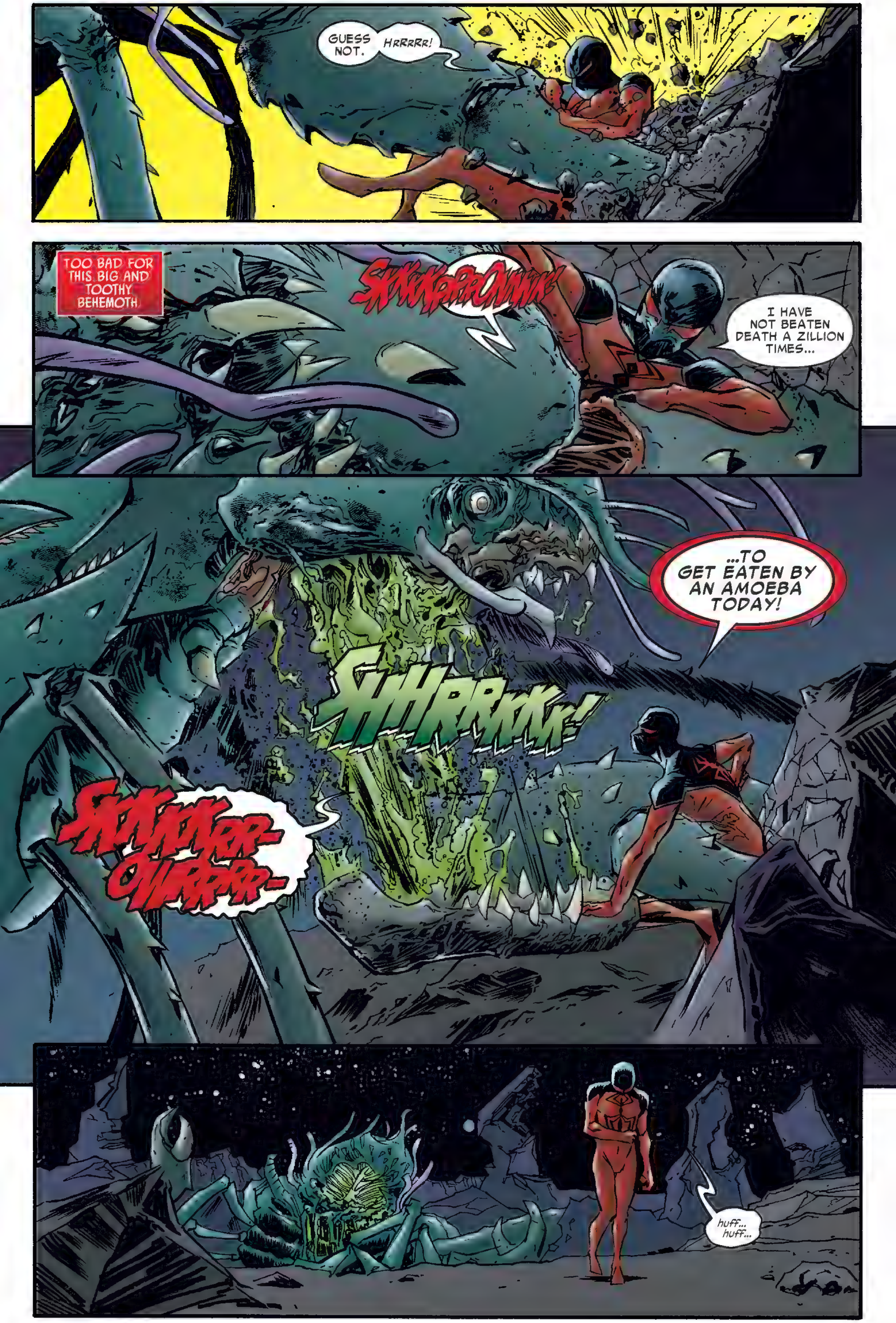

CAPTAIN'S LOG. STARDATE BLAH-BLAH-BLAH.
THIS SCIENCE FICTION MUMBO JUMBO WOULD BE RIGHT UP PARKER'S ALLEY.
HE'D ALSO GET A KICK OUT OF SEEING GOOD OL' FLASH THOMPSON STUCK ON A SPACESHIP HURTLING THROUGH SOME MICROSCOPIC ALIEN UNIVERSE.
ME, I'D GET A KICK OUT OF KNOWING WHETHER OR NOT I'M HITCHING A RIDE...
...OR IF I'M A PRISONER.
MY NAME IS ARCTURUS RANN, CAPTAIN OF THE ENDEAVOR AND LEADER OF THE ENIGMA FORCE.
MY COMPANIONS ARE PRINCESS MARIONETTE...
...QUARK...
...BUG...
...AND FLARE.
AND YOU... YOU'RE THE CORRUPTER.
MINIMUM CARNAGE
PART 3: THE MADMAN & THE MICROVERSE
YEAH.
THAT'S WHAT THE REST OF THE SUGARPLUM FAIRIES SAID WHEN I GOT DROPPED ON THIS ROCK.
I'M CALLED VENOM.
I'M HERE--
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW YOUR NAME.

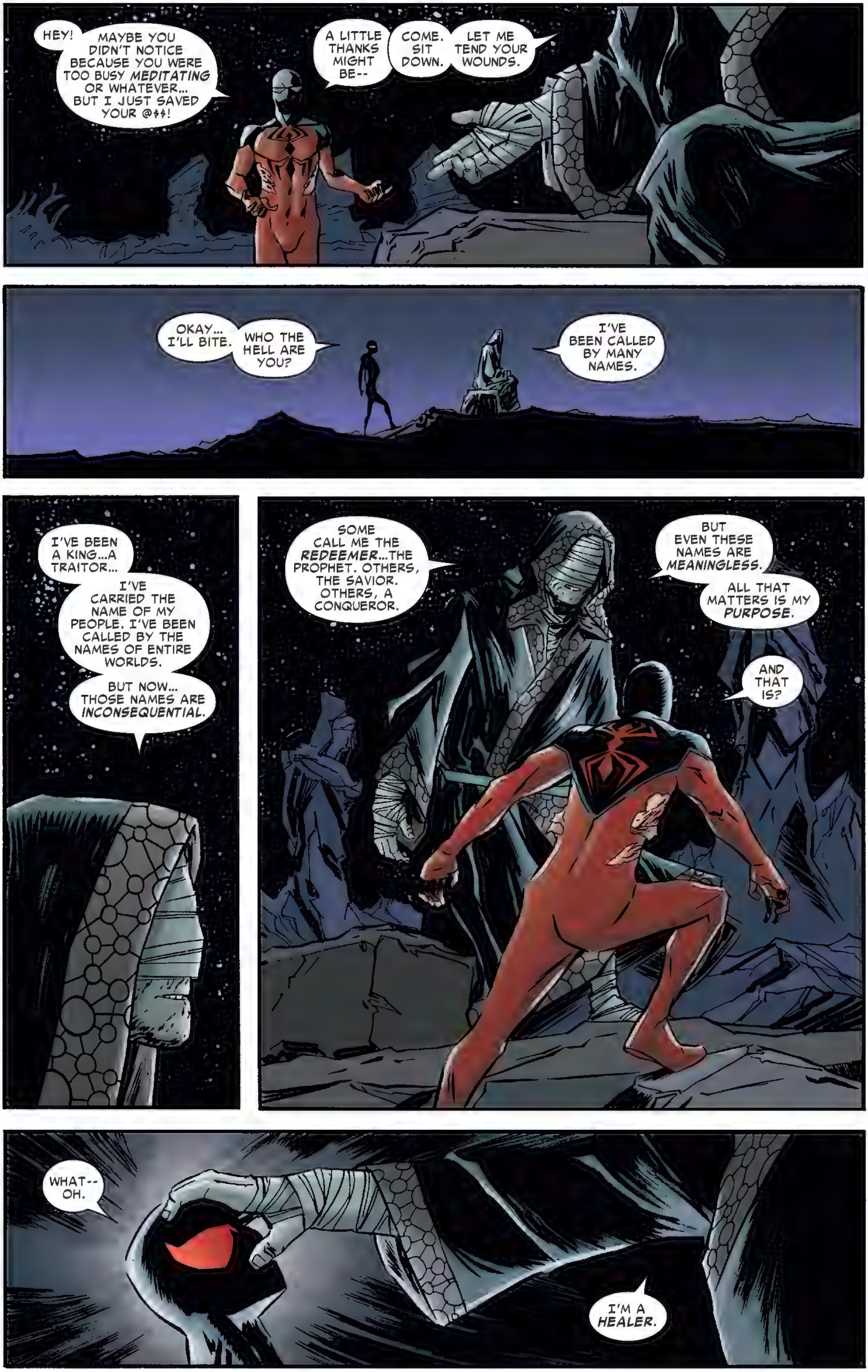

WE DIDN'T SAVE YOU BACK ON TROPICA SO WE COULD TALK. I WANT YOU OUT--
FLARE, *ENOUGH.*
COME ON, COMMANDER.
PLEASE, DON'T TELL ME WE HAVE TO PLAY NICE WITH THIS... *CREATURE.*
HEY, SOME OF MY BEST PALS ARE STIKE CREATURES.
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE STIKE RUDE, LITTLE SPRITE.
I THINK FLARE MIGHT DISAGREE, BUG.
OUR *"FRIEND"* VENOM IS MUCH MORE DANGEROUS THAN HE APPEARS.
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT MAKES TWO OF US, GORGEOUS.
HA!
DANGEROUS OR NOT, I STIKE *LIKE* HIM.
UUH?

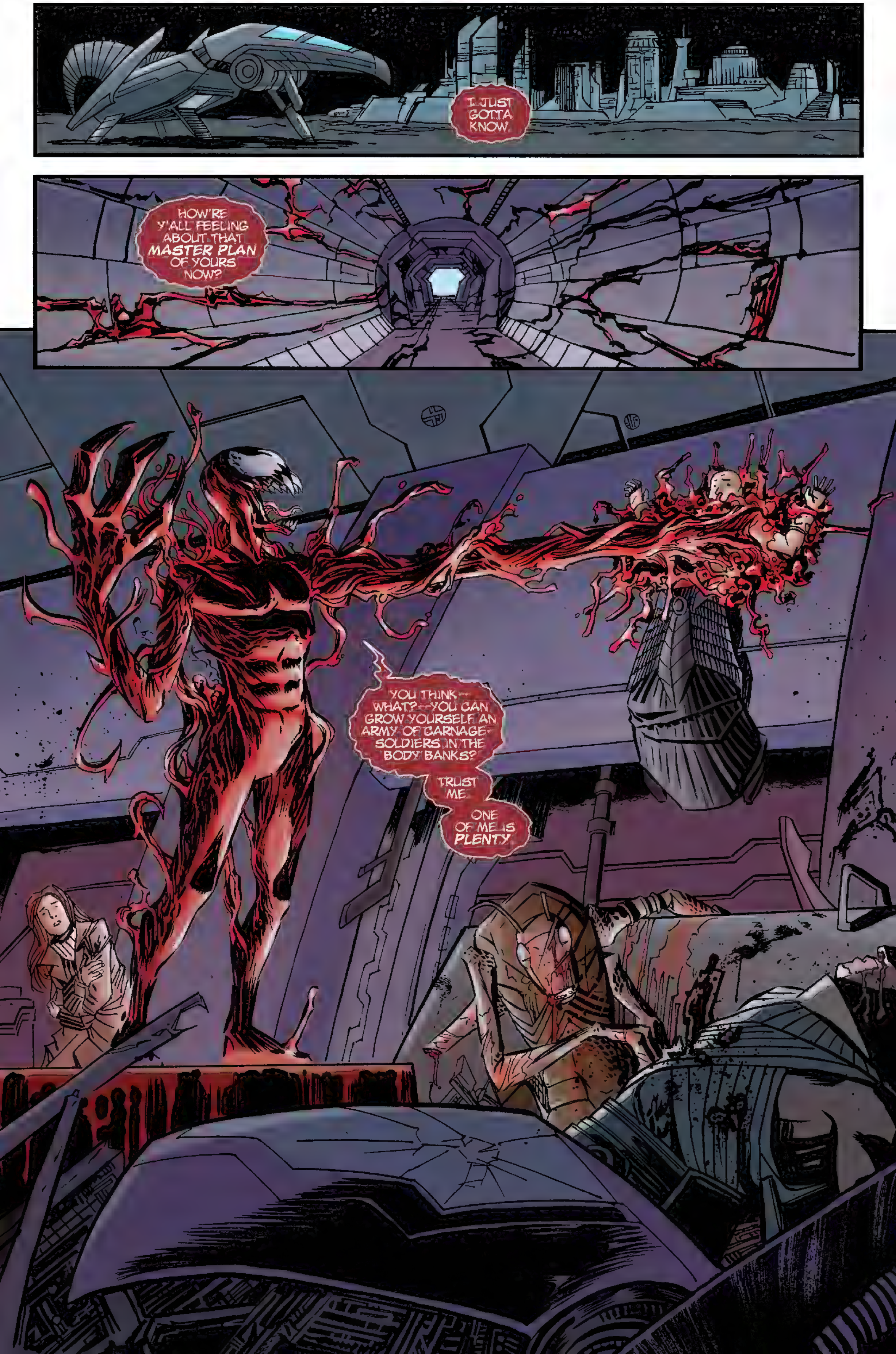

HOLY SHREW!
WHAT WAS *THAT?*
IT FELT LIKE I WAS ET-TIKE ROTTING FROM THE INSIDE OUT!
IMAGINE THAT ON A *PLANETARY* SCALE.
IMAGINE TROPICA...OR YOUR HOME PLANET OF KALIKLAK...OR HOMEWORLD ITSELF BEING CONSUMED BY THAT FORCE.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO GET HIM *OUT* OF THE MICROVERSE.
OUT? WAIT A SECOND.
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE. I HAVE A *FRIEND* WHO'S *LOST* OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.
AND THERE'S A *MONSTER* ON THE LOOSE.
SORRY, BUT YOU *CAN'T* STAY HERE.
THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH REAL DAMAGE YOU MIGHT DO TO THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR REALITY.
IT'S NOT UP TO YOU WHETHER YOU STAY OR GO.
I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT UP TO US, EITHER.
THE REDEEMER WANTS TO SEE HIM.
WHAT?

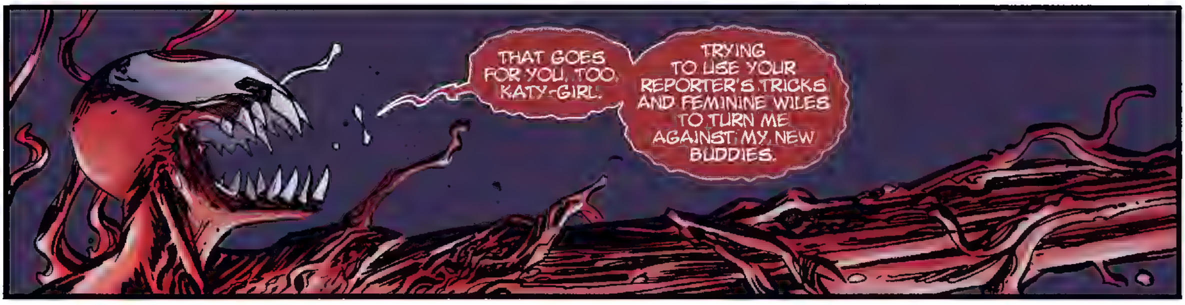

THAT'S OUR ƎTIKƎ BIG BUDDY, ALWAYS CHANGING HIS MIND!
OKAY. SLOW DOWN.
WHAT JUST HAPPENED? WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
WE'RE TAKING YOU TO MEET THE ƎTIKƎ BOSS.
WELCOME TO THE CAUSE!
WEEE-OOO WEEE-OOO WEEE-OOO
SAVE THE CHATTER FOR LATER!
EVERYONE STRAP IN OR FIND SOMETHING TO HOLD ONTO!
TWO DOZEN SHIPS FROM MARQUIS RADU'S ARMADA!
COMING OUT OF WARP RIGHT IN FRONT OF US!
BATTLE STATIONS!

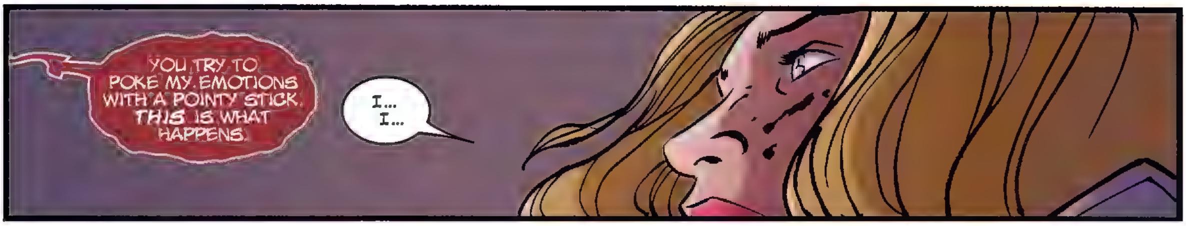

MY NAME IS KAINE.
IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, I'M KNOWN AS THE *SCARLET SPIDER*.
HERE...WHEREVER HERE IS...I'M KNOWN AS A SNACK!
SKKKKRPRRR-OWR!
FOLLOWED A MASS MURDERER NAMED CLETUS KASADY THROUGH THE *PROMETHEUS PIT*.
(NOT MY IDEA.)
SHRUNK DOWN TO SUB-ATOMIC KIBBLES AND BITS.
SKK!
HURLED ACROSS DIMENSIONS TO THIS PINT-SIZED NIGHTMARE.
CH-KUNK! CHUNK!
BACK HOME, THIS THING IS PROBABLY AN *AMOEBA* OR SOMETHING.
WHUP!
SKKKKRPRRR
HERE... IT'S BIG AND HUNGRY!
HEY!
A LITTLE HELP HERE?!

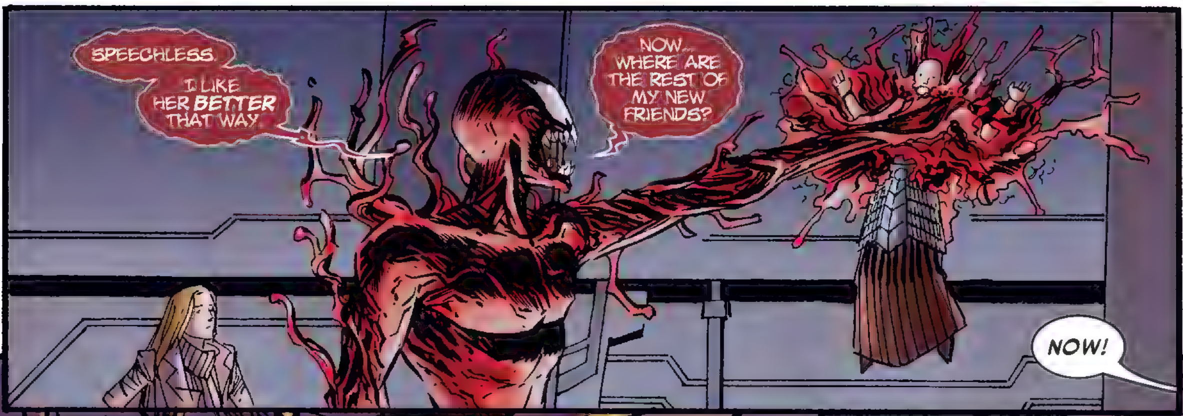

GUESS NOT.
HRRRRR!
TOO BAD FOR THIS BIG AND TOOTHY BEHEMOTH
SKKKKORRONNNK!
I HAVE NOT BEATEN DEATH A ZILLION TIMES...
...TO GET EATEN BY AN AMOEBA TODAY!
SHHRRAKK!
SKRAKKORR-ONRRRR-
huff... huff...

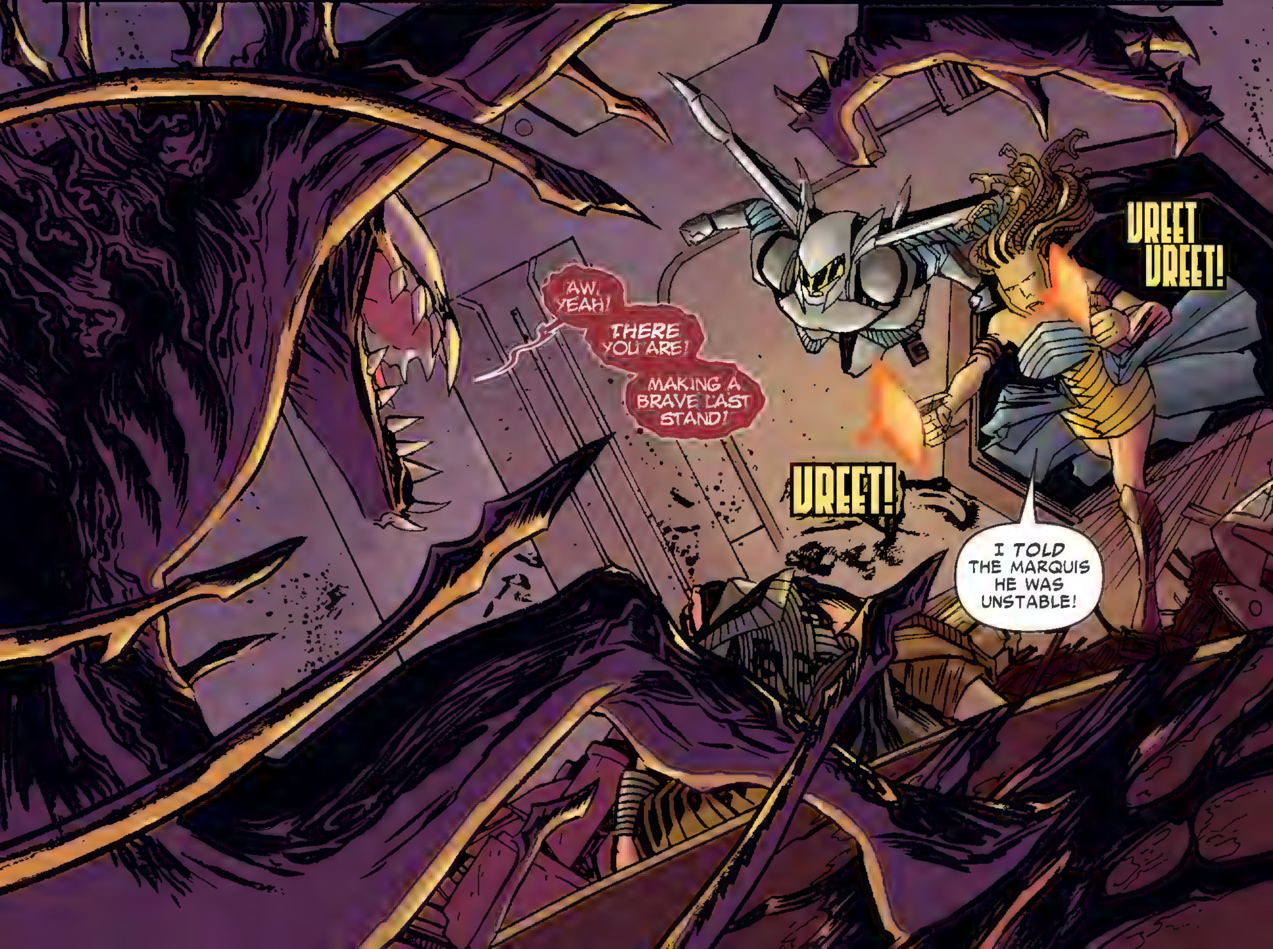

HEY!
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO BUSY *MEDITATING* OR WHATEVER... BUT I JUST SAVED YOUR @$$!
A LITTLE THANKS MIGHT BE--
COME. SIT DOWN.
LET ME TEND YOUR WOUNDS.
OKAY... I'LL BITE.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
I'VE BEEN CALLED BY MANY NAMES.
I'VE BEEN A KING...A TRAITOR...
I'VE CARRIED THE NAME OF MY PEOPLE. I'VE BEEN CALLED BY THE NAMES OF ENTIRE WORLDS.
BUT NOW... THOSE NAMES ARE *INCONSEQUENTIAL*.
SOME CALL ME THE ***REDEEMER***...THE PROPHET. OTHERS, THE SAVIOR. OTHERS, A CONQUEROR.
BUT EVEN THESE NAMES ARE *MEANINGLESS*.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS MY *PURPOSE*.
AND THAT IS?
WHAT--OH.
I'M A *HEALER*.

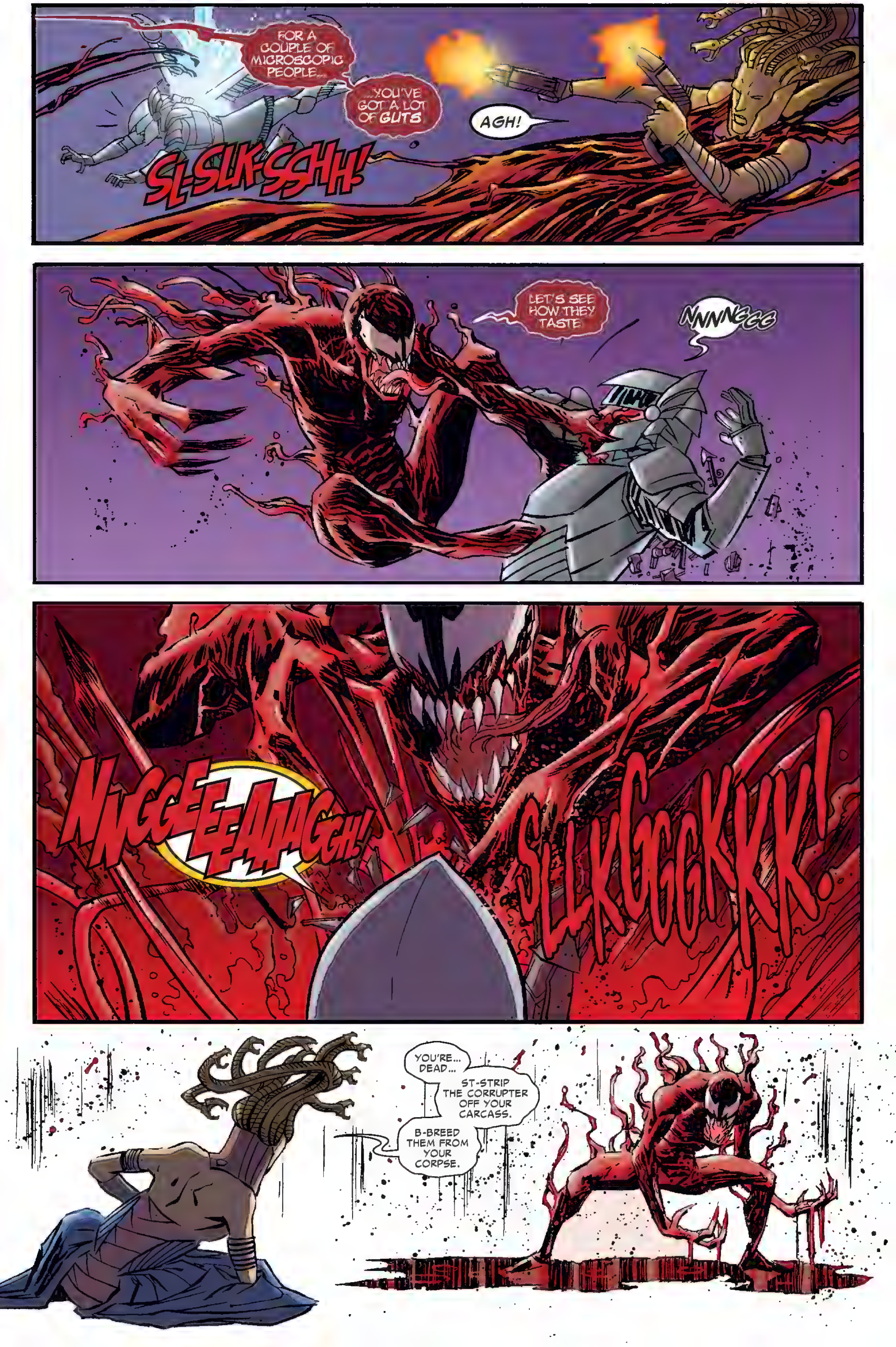

I JUST GOTTA KNOW.
HOW'RE Y'ALL FEELING ABOUT THAT **MASTER PLAN** OF YOURS NOW?
YOU THINK-- WHAT?--YOU CAN GROW YOURSELF AN ARMY OF CARNAGE-SOLDIERS IN THE BODY BANKS?
TRUST ME.
ONE OF ME IS **PLENTY**.

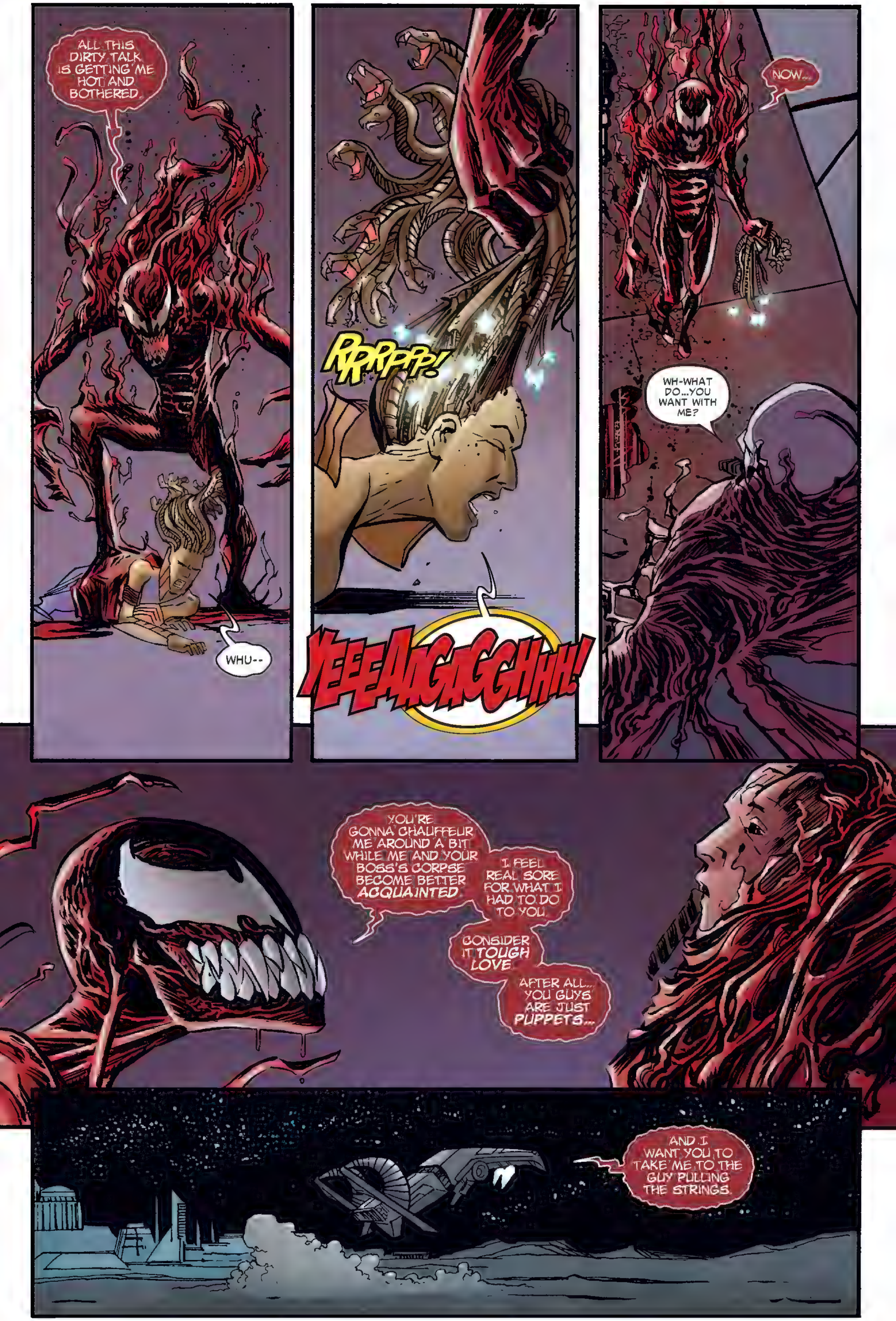

THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO, KATY-GIRL.
TRYING TO USE YOUR REPORTER'S TRICKS AND FEMININE WILES TO TURN ME AGAINST MY NEW BUDDIES.

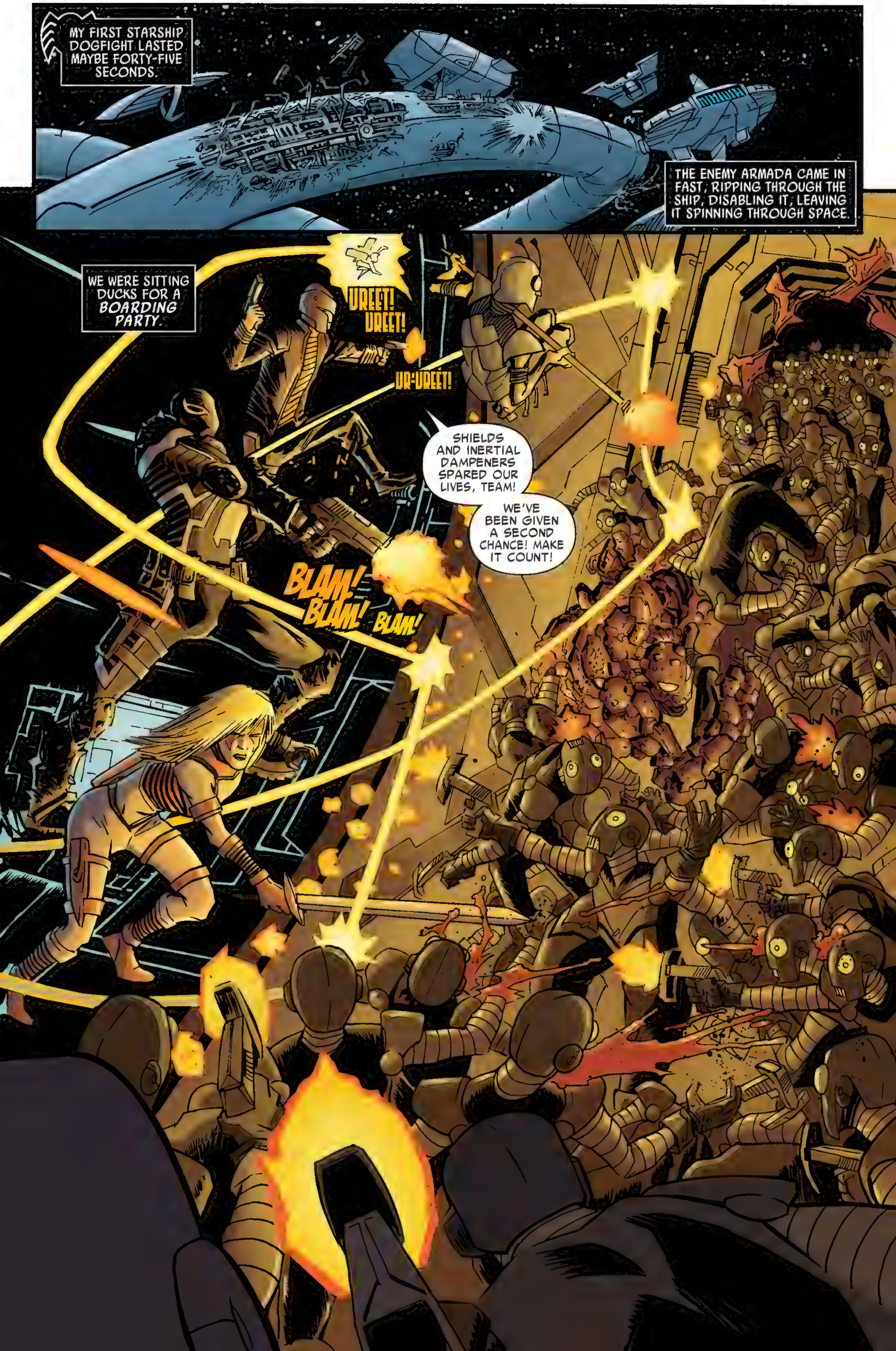

YOU TRY TO POKE MY EMOTIONS WITH A POINTY STICK, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS.
I... I...

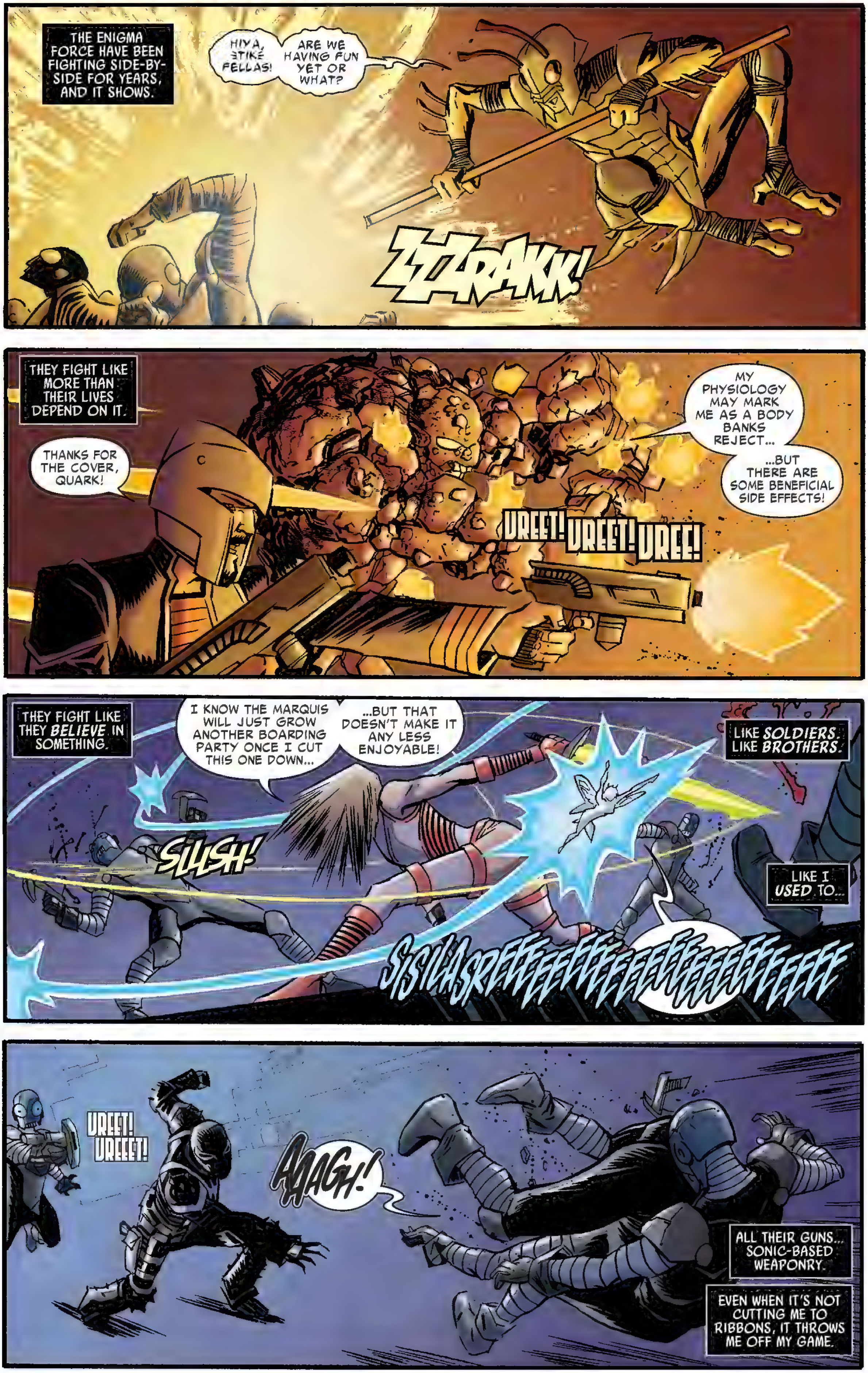

SPEECHLESS.
I LIKE HER BETTER THAT WAY.
NOW... WHERE ARE THE REST OF MY NEW FRIENDS?
NOW!

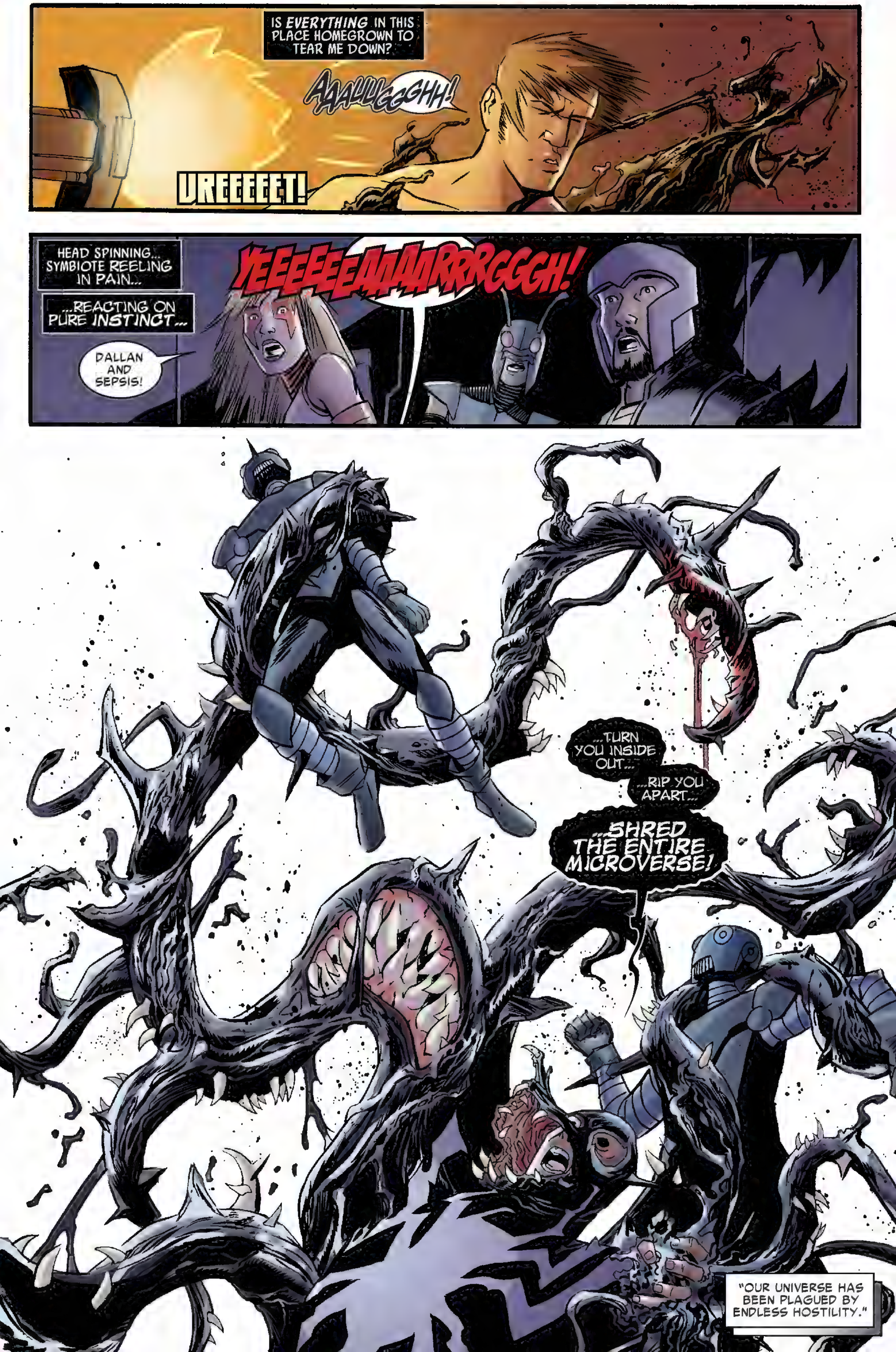

AW, YEAH!
THERE YOU ARE!
MAKING A BRAVE LAST STAND!
UREET UREET!
UREET!
I TOLD THE MARQUIS HE WAS UNSTABLE!

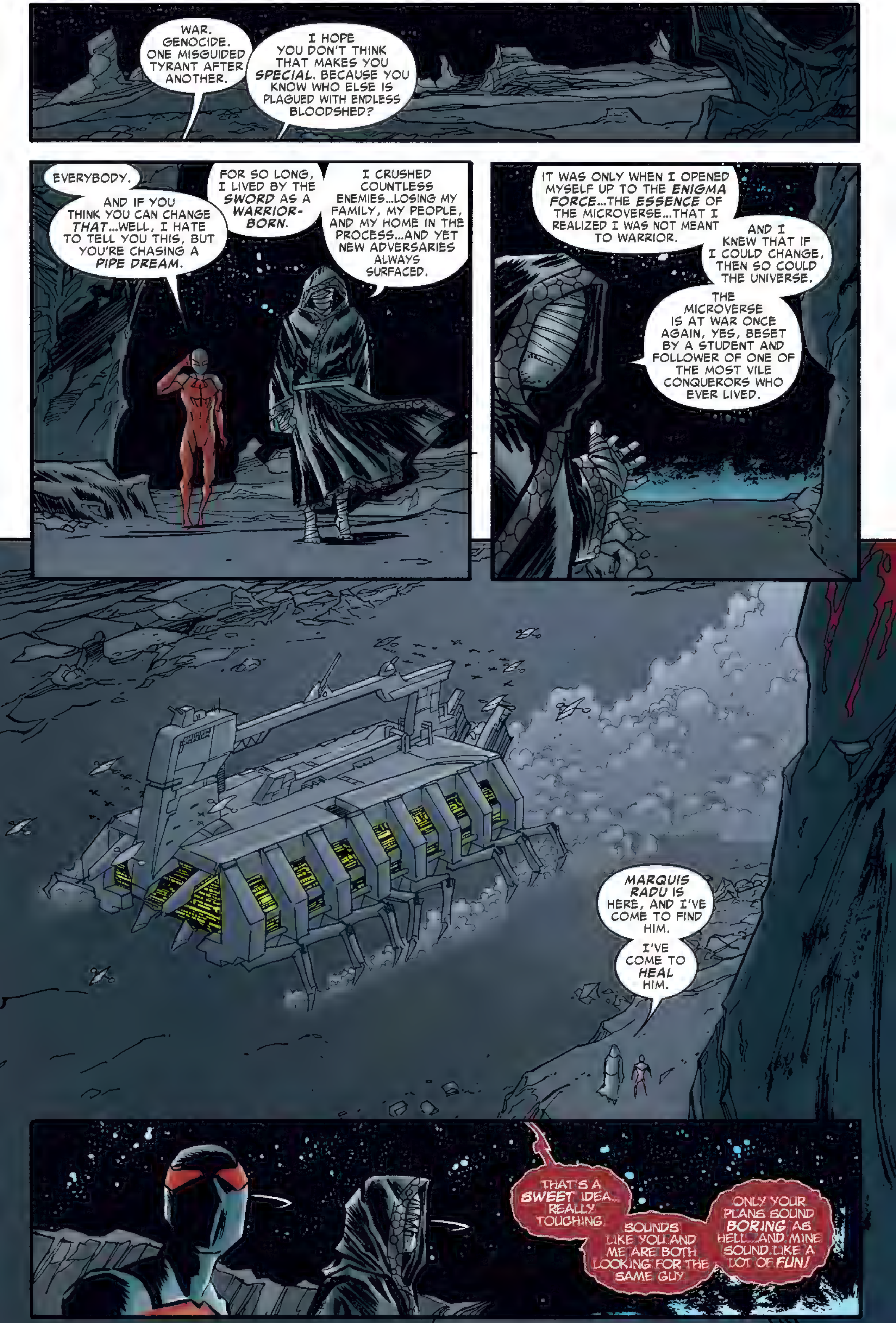

FOR A COUPLE OF MICROSCOPIC PEOPLE...
...YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF GUTS
AGH!
SL-SLIK-SSHH!
LET'S SEE HOW THEY TASTE
NNNNGGG
NNGGEEEAAAGGH!
SLLKGGGKKK!
YOU'RE... DEAD...
ST-STRIP THE CORRUPTER OFF YOUR CARCASS.
B-BREED THEM FROM YOUR CORPSE.

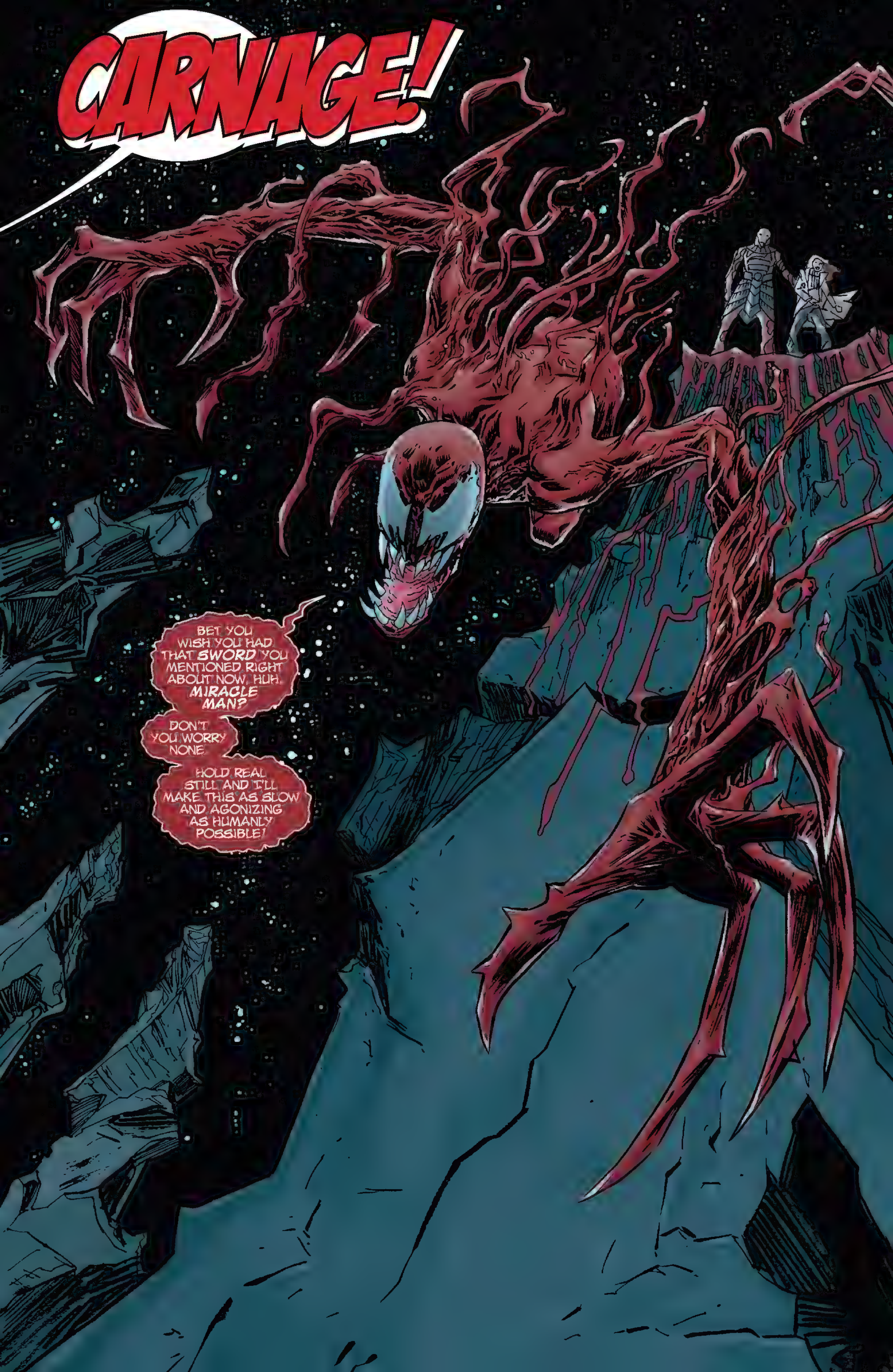

ALL THIS DIRTY TALK IS GETTING ME HOT AND BOTHERED.
WHU--
RRRPPP!
YEEEAAGAGGHHH!
NOW...
WH-WHAT DO...YOU WANT WITH ME?
YOU'RE GONNA CHAUFFEUR ME AROUND A BIT WHILE ME AND YOUR BOSS'S CORPSE BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED.
I FEEL REAL SORE FOR WHAT I HAD TO DO TO YOU.
CONSIDER IT TOUGH LOVE.
AFTER ALL... YOU GUYS ARE JUST PUPPETS...
AND I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME TO THE GUY PULLING THE STRINGS.

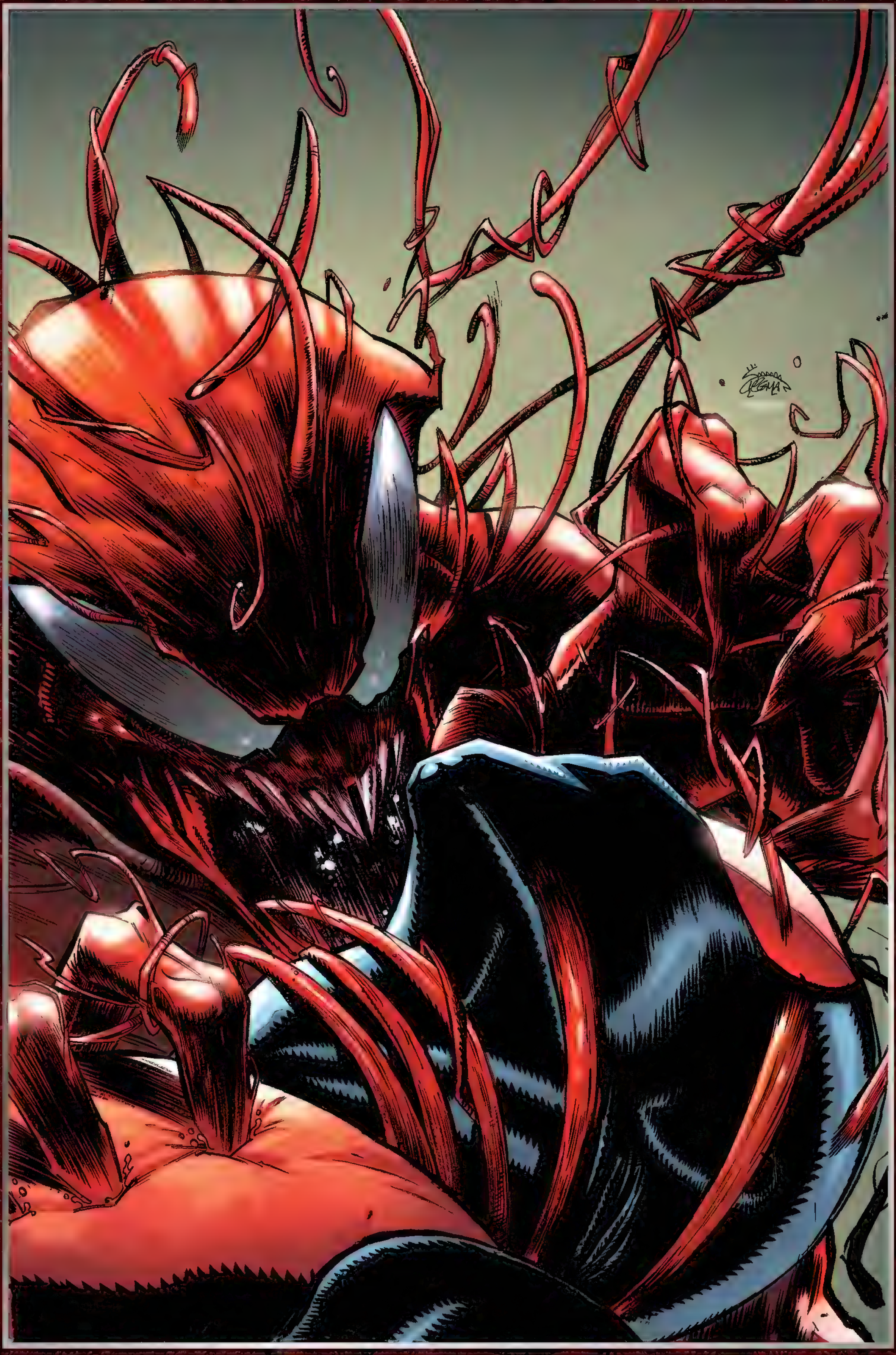

MY FIRST STARSHIP DOGFIGHT LASTED MAYBE FORTY-FIVE SECONDS.
THE ENEMY ARMADA CAME IN FAST, RIPPING THROUGH THE SHIP, DISABLING IT, LEAVING IT SPINNING THROUGH SPACE.
WE WERE SITTING DUCKS FOR A BOARDING PARTY.
UREET! UREET!
UR-UREET!
SHIELDS AND INERTIAL DAMPENERS SPARED OUR LIVES, TEAM!
WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE! MAKE IT COUNT!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!


THE ENIGMA FORCE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING SIDE-BY-SIDE FOR YEARS, AND IT SHOWS.
HIYA, STIKE FELLAS!
ARE WE HAVING FUN YET OR WHAT?
ZZZRAKK!
THEY FIGHT LIKE MORE THAN THEIR LIVES DEPEND ON IT.
THANKS FOR THE COVER, QUARK!
MY PHYSIOLOGY MAY MARK ME AS A BODY BANKS REJECT...
...BUT THERE ARE SOME BENEFICIAL SIDE EFFECTS!
UREET! UREET! UREE!
THEY FIGHT LIKE THEY BELIEVE IN SOMETHING.
I KNOW THE MARQUIS WILL JUST GROW ANOTHER BOARDING PARTY ONCE I CUT THIS ONE DOWN...
...BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY LESS ENJOYABLE!
LIKE SOLDIERS. LIKE BROTHERS.
SLISH!
LIKE I USED TO...
SISLASREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
UREET! UREET!
AAAGH!
ALL THEIR GUNS... SONIC-BASED WEAPONRY.
EVEN WHEN IT'S NOT CUTTING ME TO RIBBONS, IT THROWS ME OFF MY GAME.

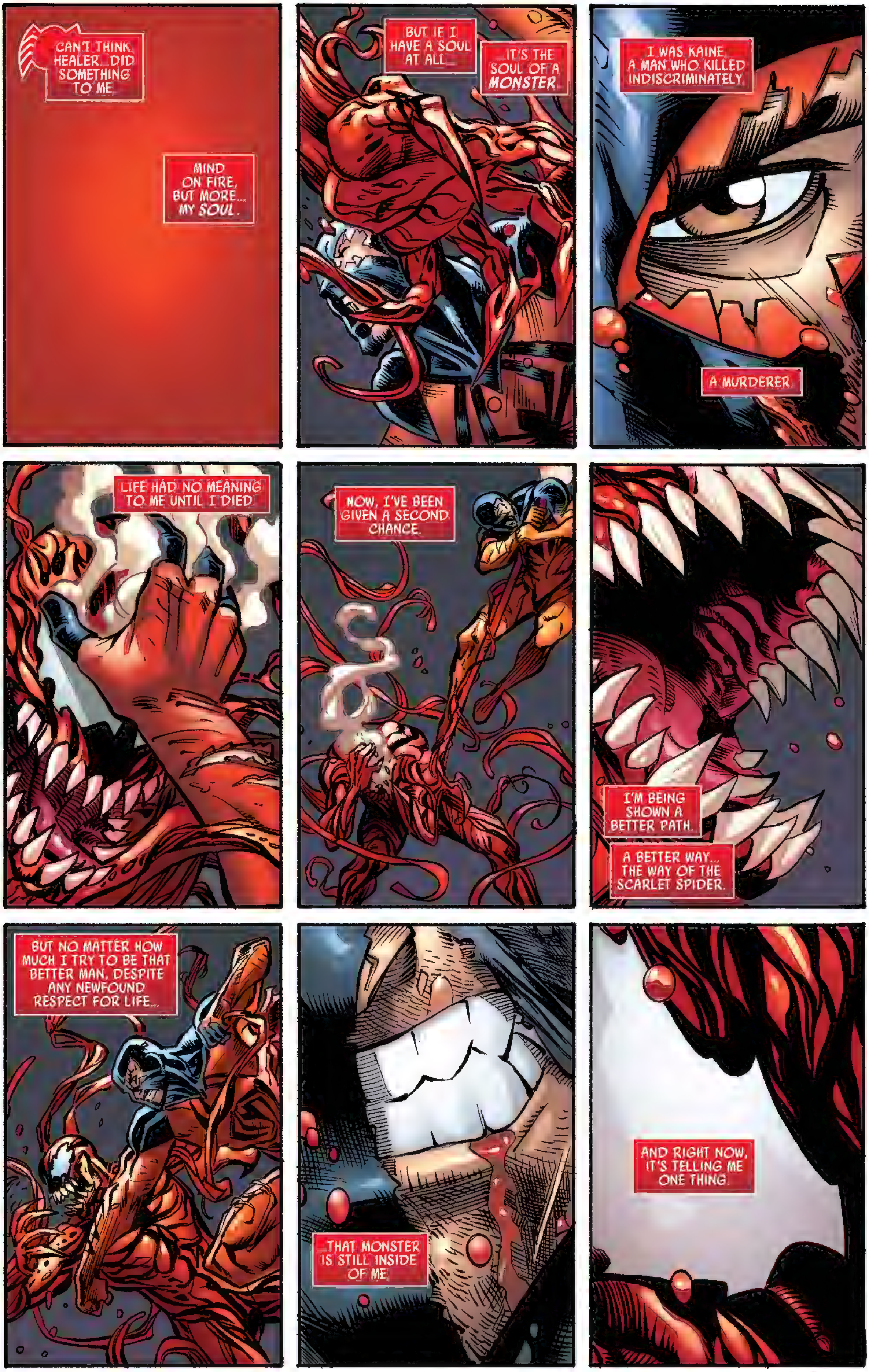

IS *EVERYTHING* IN THIS PLACE HOMEGROWN TO TEAR ME DOWN?
AAAUUGGGHH!
UREEEEET!
HEAD SPINNING... SYMBIOTE REELING IN PAIN...
...REACTING ON PURE *INSTINCT*...
YEEEEEEAAAARRRGGGH!
DALLAN AND SEPSIS!
...TURN YOU INSIDE OUT...
...RIP YOU APART...
...SHRED THE ENTIRE MICROVERSE!
"OUR UNIVERSE HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY ENDLESS HOSTILITY."

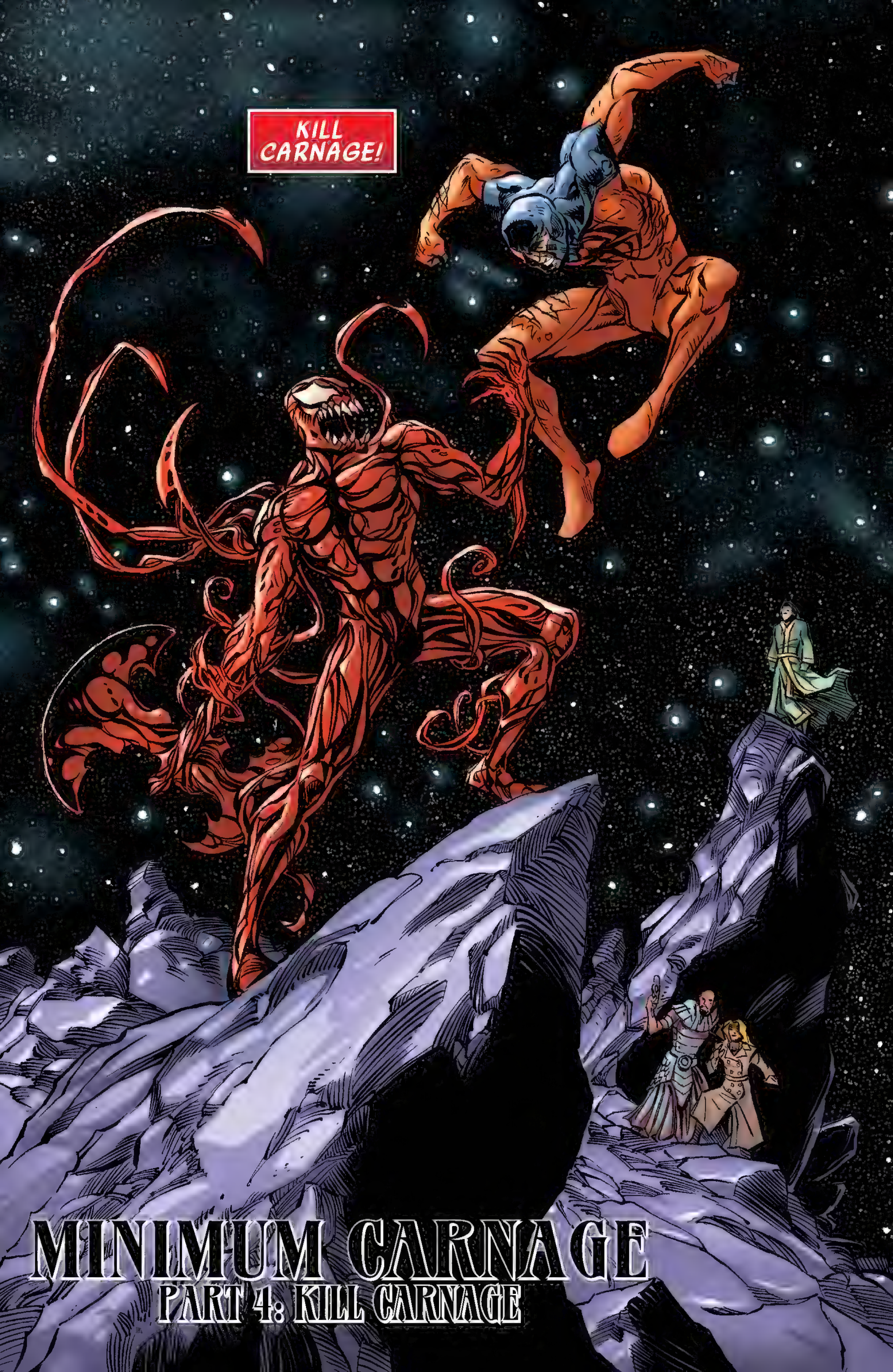

WAR. GENOCIDE. ONE MISGUIDED TYRANT AFTER ANOTHER.
I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK THAT MAKES YOU *SPECIAL*. BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHO ELSE IS PLAGUED WITH ENDLESS BLOODSHED?
EVERYBODY.
AND IF YOU THINK YOU CAN CHANGE *THAT*...WELL, I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT YOU'RE CHASING A *PIPE DREAM*.
FOR SO LONG, I LIVED BY THE *SWORD* AS A *WARRIOR-BORN*.
I CRUSHED COUNTLESS ENEMIES...LOSING MY FAMILY, MY PEOPLE, AND MY HOME IN THE PROCESS...AND YET NEW ADVERSARIES ALWAYS SURFACED.
IT WAS ONLY WHEN I OPENED MYSELF UP TO THE *ENIGMA FORCE*...THE *ESSENCE* OF THE MICROVERSE...THAT I REALIZED I WAS NOT MEANT TO WARRIOR.
AND I KNEW THAT IF I COULD CHANGE, THEN SO COULD THE UNIVERSE.
THE MICROVERSE IS AT WAR ONCE AGAIN, YES, BESET BY A STUDENT AND FOLLOWER OF ONE OF THE MOST VILE CONQUERORS WHO EVER LIVED.
MARQUIS RADU IS HERE, AND I'VE COME TO FIND HIM.
I'VE COME TO *HEAL* HIM.
THAT'S A *SWEET* IDEA... REALLY TOUCHING.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU AND ME ARE BOTH LOOKING FOR THE SAME GUY.
ONLY YOUR PLANS SOUND *BORING* AS HELL...AND MINE SOUND LIKE A LOT OF *FUN!*


CARNAGE!
BET YOU WISH YOU HAD THAT SWORD YOU MENTIONED RIGHT ABOUT NOW, HUH, MIRACLE MAN?
DON'T YOU WORRY NONE.
HOLD REAL STILL AND I'LL MAKE THIS AS SLOW AND AGONIZING AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE!



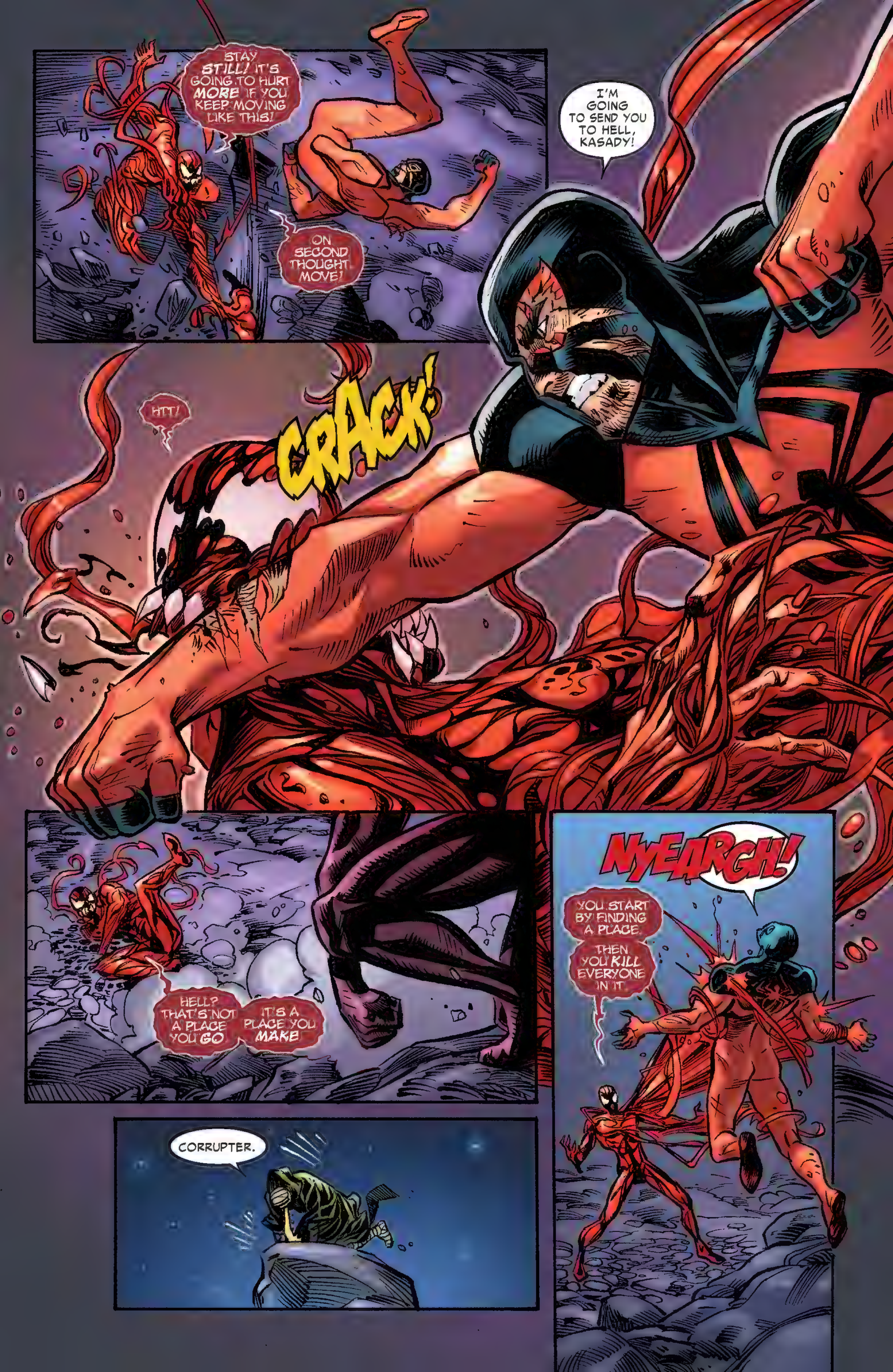
scarlet spider #11

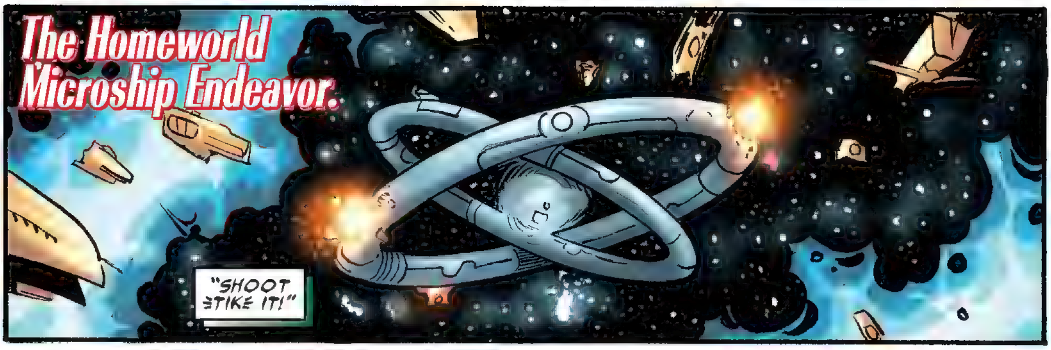

CAN'T THINK. HEALER...DID SOMETHING TO ME.
MIND ON FIRE, BUT MORE... MY SOUL.
BUT IF I HAVE A SOUL AT ALL...
...IT'S THE SOUL OF A MONSTER.
I WAS KAINE. A MAN WHO KILLED INDISCRIMINATELY.
A MURDERER.
LIFE HAD NO MEANING TO ME UNTIL I DIED.
NOW, I'VE BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE.
I'M BEING SHOWN A BETTER PATH.
A BETTER WAY... THE WAY OF THE SCARLET SPIDER.
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY TO BE THAT BETTER MAN, DESPITE ANY NEWFOUND RESPECT FOR LIFE...
THAT MONSTER IS STILL INSIDE OF ME.
AND RIGHT NOW, IT'S TELLING ME ONE THING.

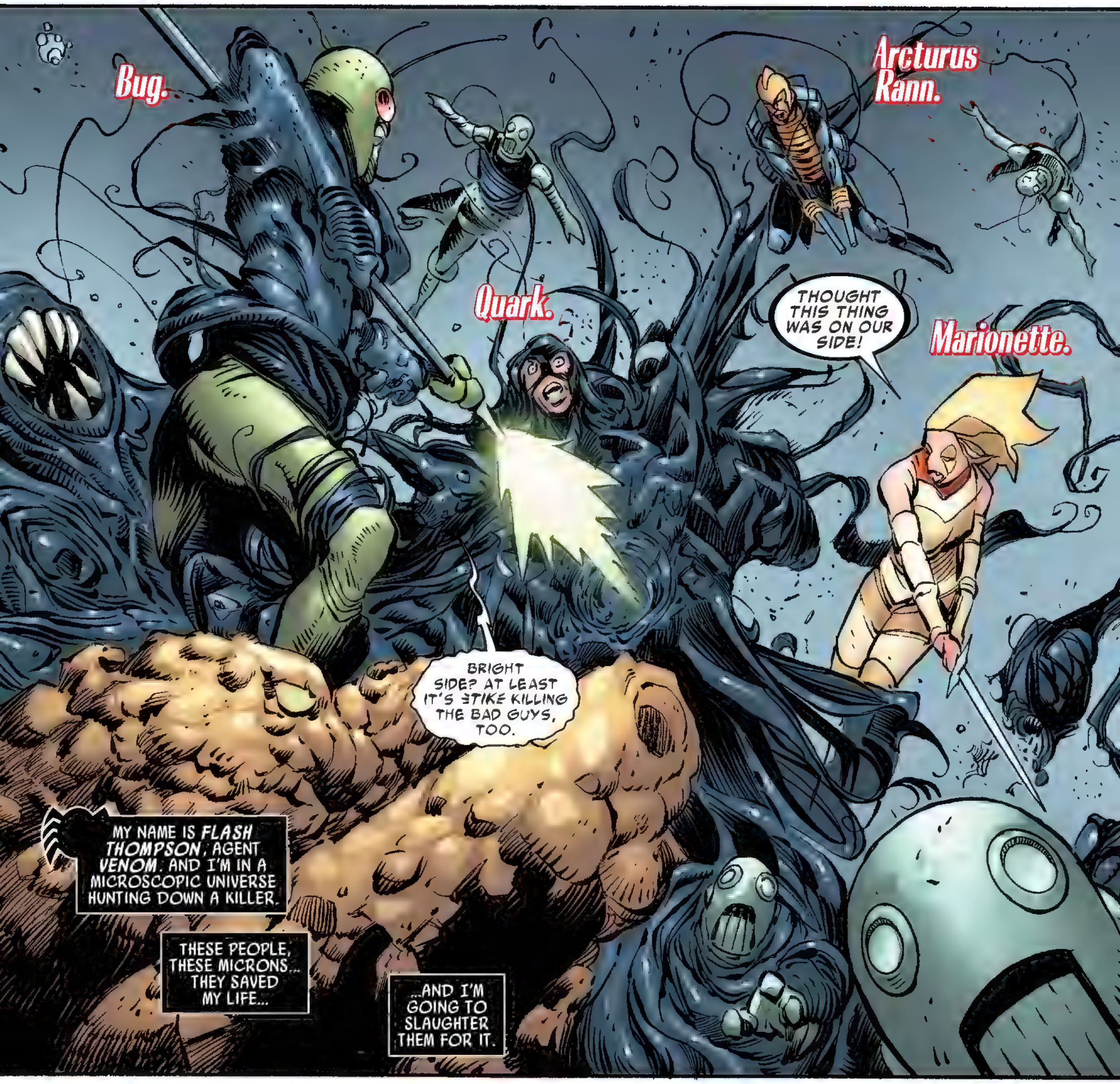

KILL CARNAGE!

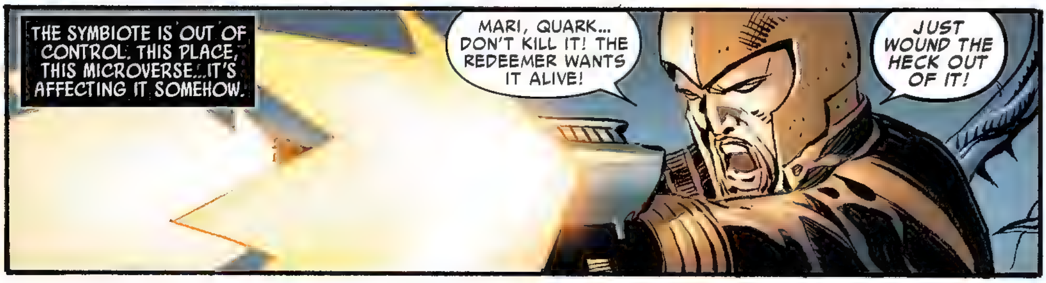
MINIMUM CARNAGE

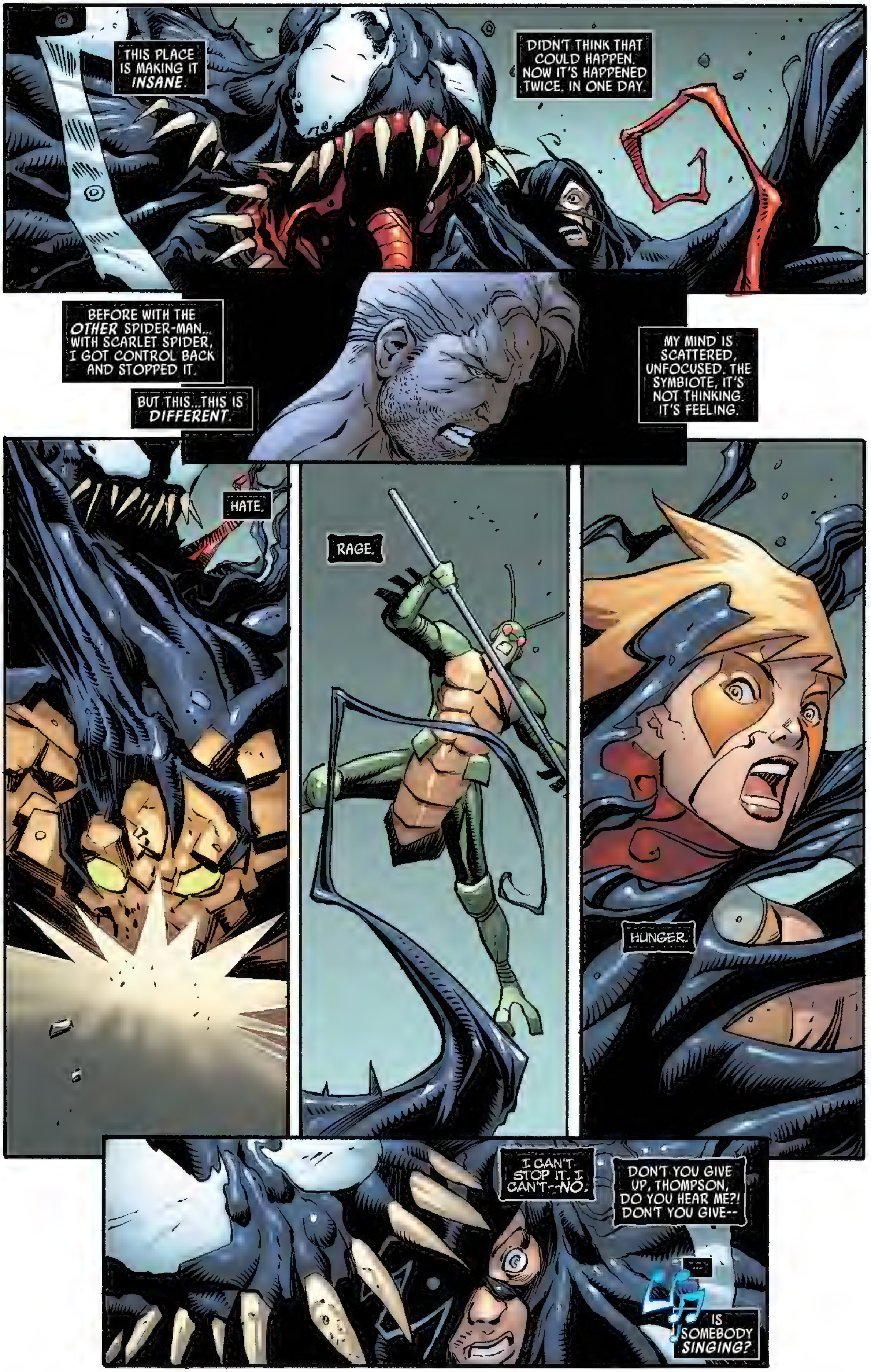
PART 4: KILL CARNAGE

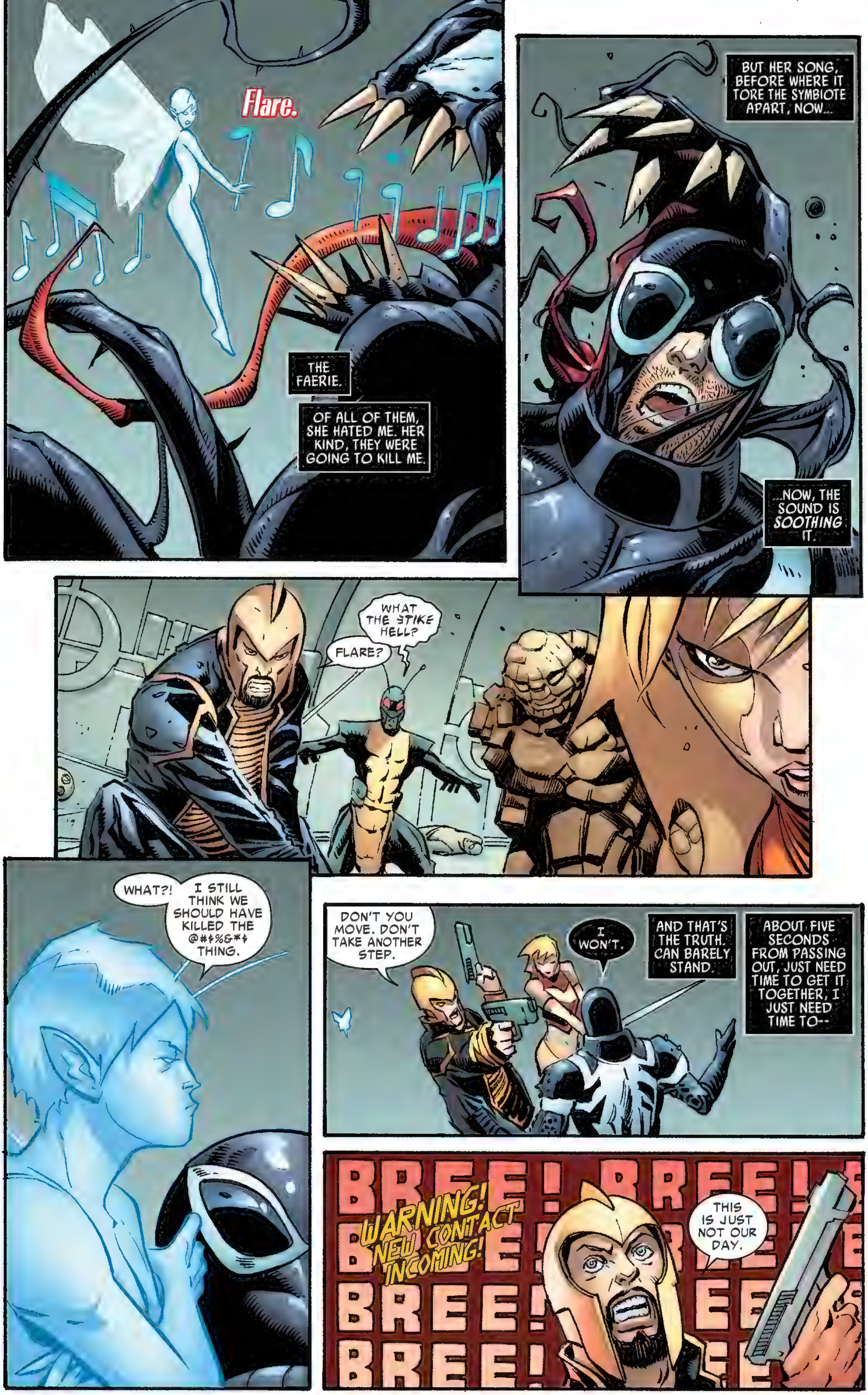

STAY STILL! IT'S GOING TO HURT MORE IF YOU KEEP MOVING LIKE THIS!
ON SECOND THOUGHT. MOVE!
I'M GOING TO SEND YOU TO HELL, KASADY!
HTT!
CRACK!
HELL? THAT'S NOT A PLACE YOU GO.
IT'S A PLACE YOU MAKE.
NYEARGH!
YOU START BY FINDING A PLACE.
THEN YOU KILL EVERYONE IN IT.
CORRUPTER.

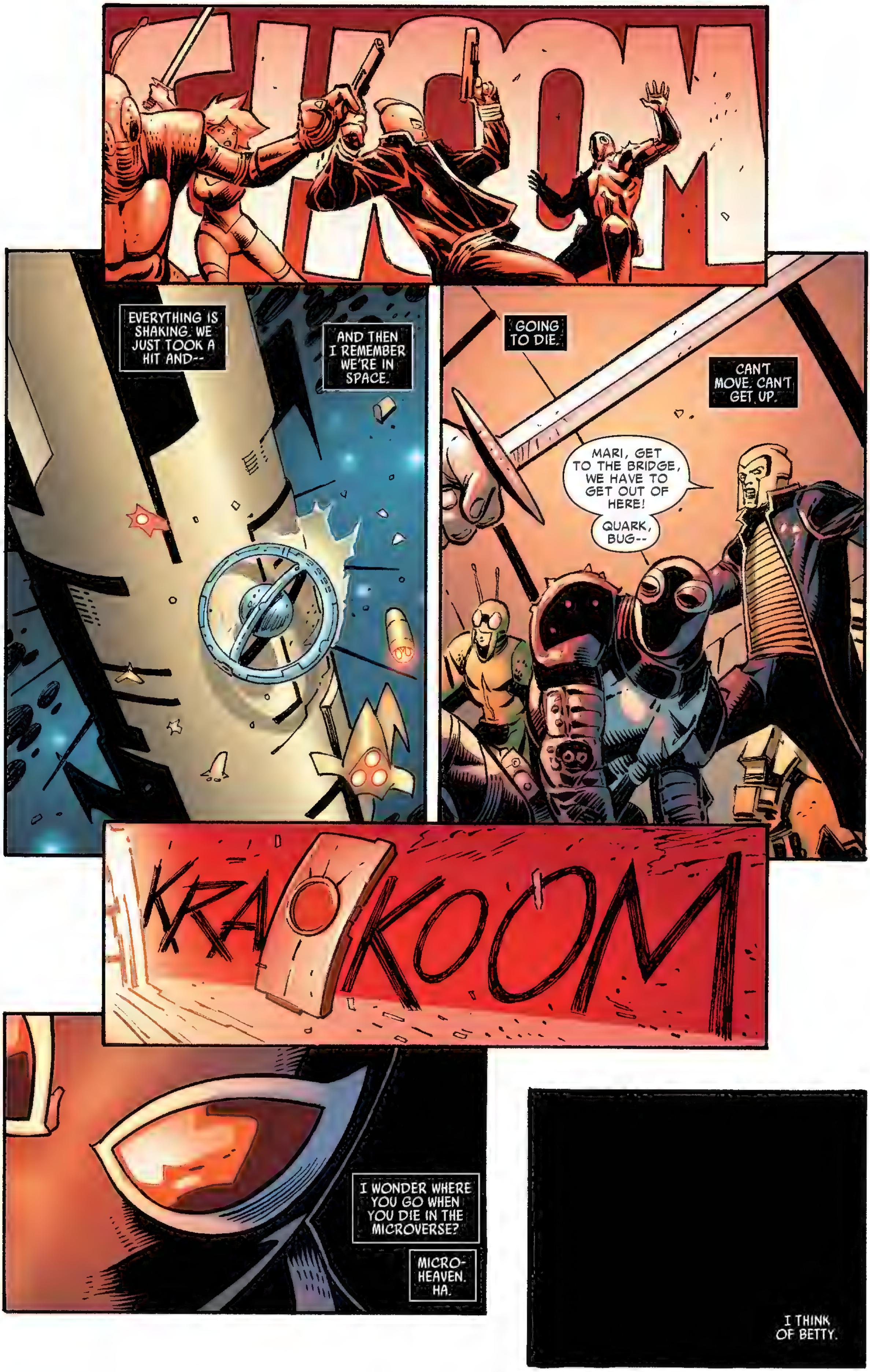

The Homeworld Microship Endeavor.
"SHOOT STIKE IT!"

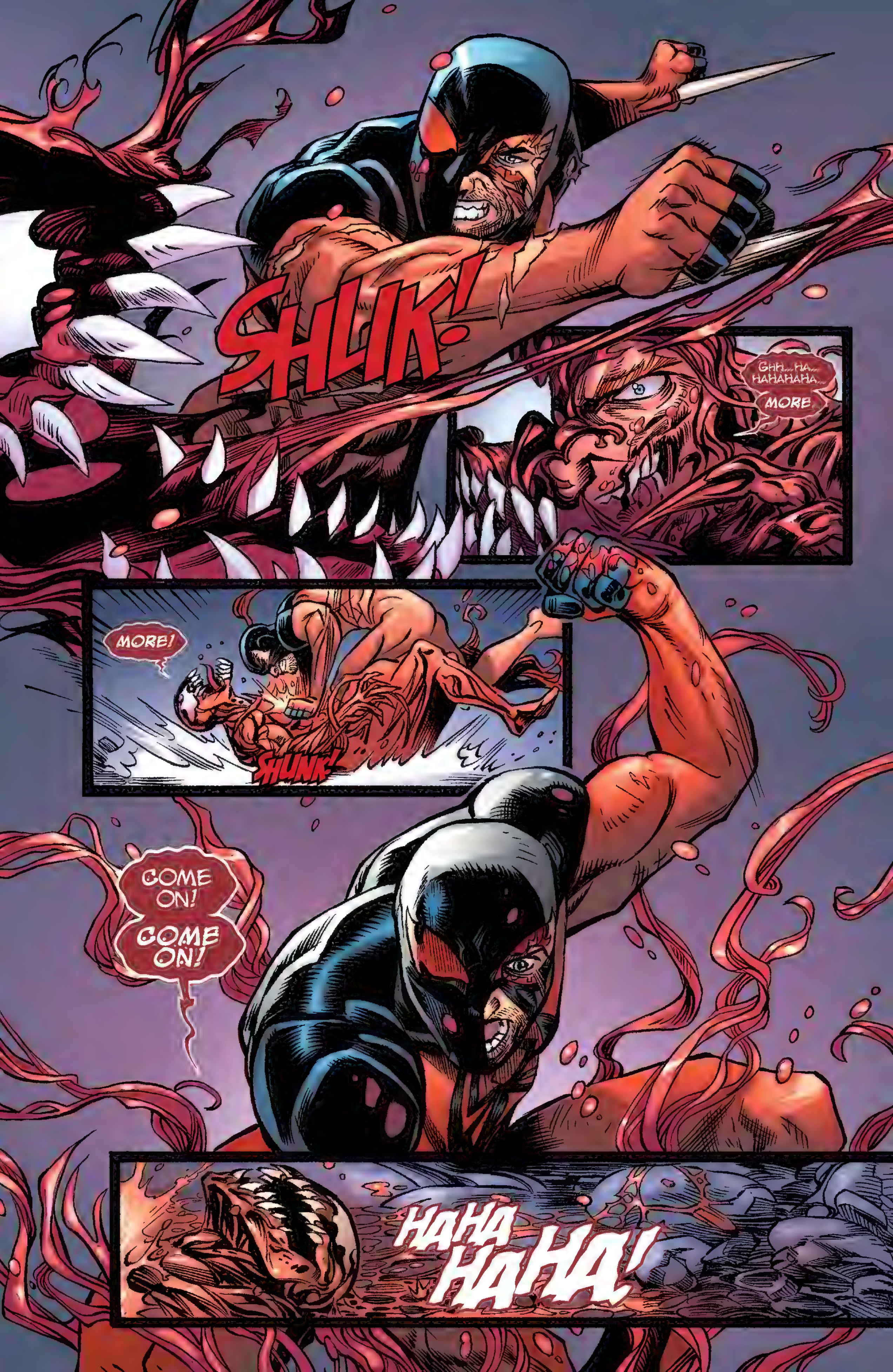

Bug.
Arcturus Rann.
Quark.
THOUGHT THIS THING WAS ON OUR SIDE!
Marionette.
BRIGHT SIDE? AT LEAST IT'S STIKE KILLING THE BAD GUYS, TOO.
MY NAME IS FLASH THOMPSON, AGENT VENOM. AND I'M IN A MICROSCOPIC UNIVERSE HUNTING DOWN A KILLER.
THESE PEOPLE, THESE MICRONS... THEY SAVED MY LIFE...
...AND I'M GOING TO SLAUGHTER THEM FOR IT.

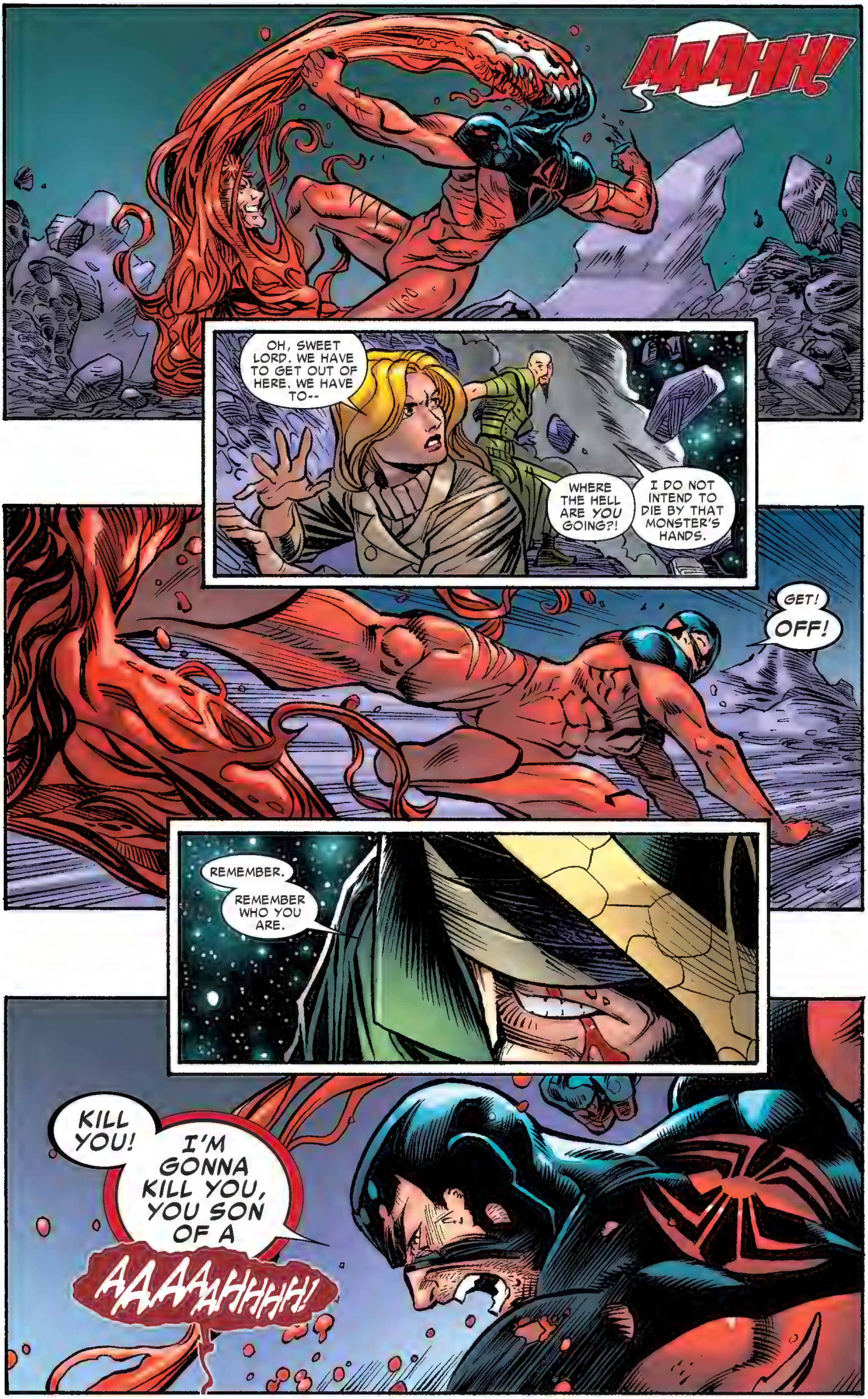

THE SYMBIOTE IS OUT OF CONTROL. THIS PLACE, THIS MICROVERSE...IT'S AFFECTING IT SOMEHOW.
MARI, QUARK... DON'T KILL IT! THE REDEEMER WANTS IT ALIVE!
JUST WOUND THE HECK OUT OF IT!

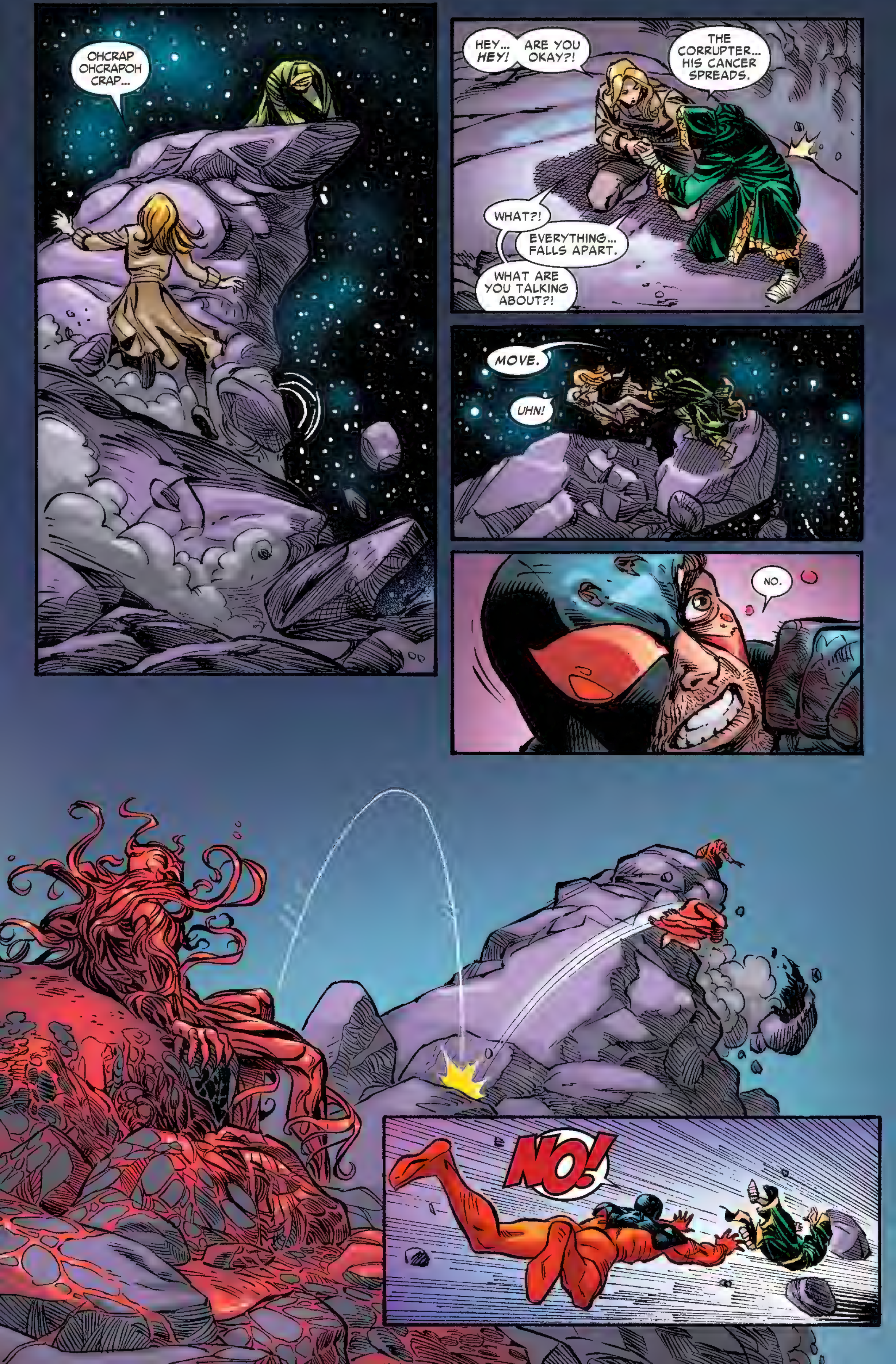

THIS PLACE IS MAKING IT *INSANE*.
DIDN'T THINK THAT COULD HAPPEN. NOW IT'S HAPPENED TWICE. IN ONE DAY.
BEFORE WITH THE *OTHER* SPIDER-MAN... WITH SCARLET SPIDER, I GOT CONTROL BACK AND STOPPED IT.
BUT THIS...THIS IS *DIFFERENT*.
MY MIND IS SCATTERED, UNFOCUSED. THE SYMBIOTE, IT'S NOT THINKING. IT'S FEELING.
HATE.
RAGE.
HUNGER.
I CAN'T STOP IT. I CAN'T--*NO*.
DON'T YOU GIVE UP, THOMPSON, DO YOU HEAR ME?! DON'T YOU GIVE--
...
IS SOMEBODY *SINGING?*

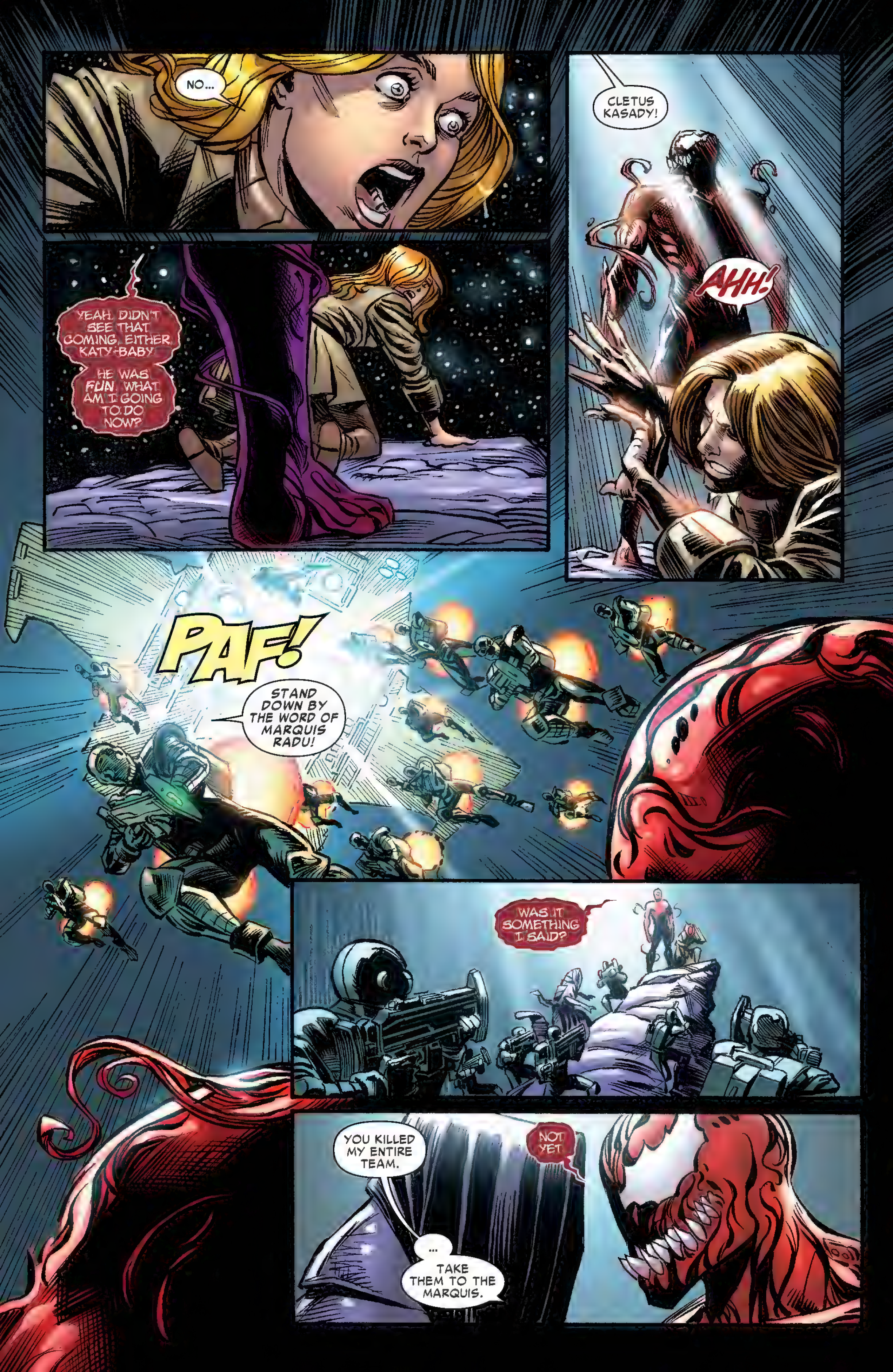

Flare.
THE FAERIE.
OF ALL OF THEM, SHE HATED ME. HER KIND, THEY WERE GOING TO KILL ME.
BUT HER SONG, BEFORE WHERE IT TORE THE SYMBIOTE APART, NOW...
...NOW, THE SOUND IS SOOTHING IT.
FLARE?
WHAT THE STIKE HELL?
WHAT?!
I STILL THINK WE SHOULD HAVE KILLED THE @#$%&*$ THING.
DON'T YOU MOVE. DON'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP.
I WON'T.
AND THAT'S THE TRUTH. CAN BARELY STAND.
ABOUT FIVE SECONDS FROM PASSING OUT, JUST NEED TIME TO GET IT TOGETHER, I JUST NEED TIME TO--
BREE! BREE! BREE! BREE!
WARNING! NEW CONTACT INCOMING!
THIS IS JUST NOT OUR DAY.

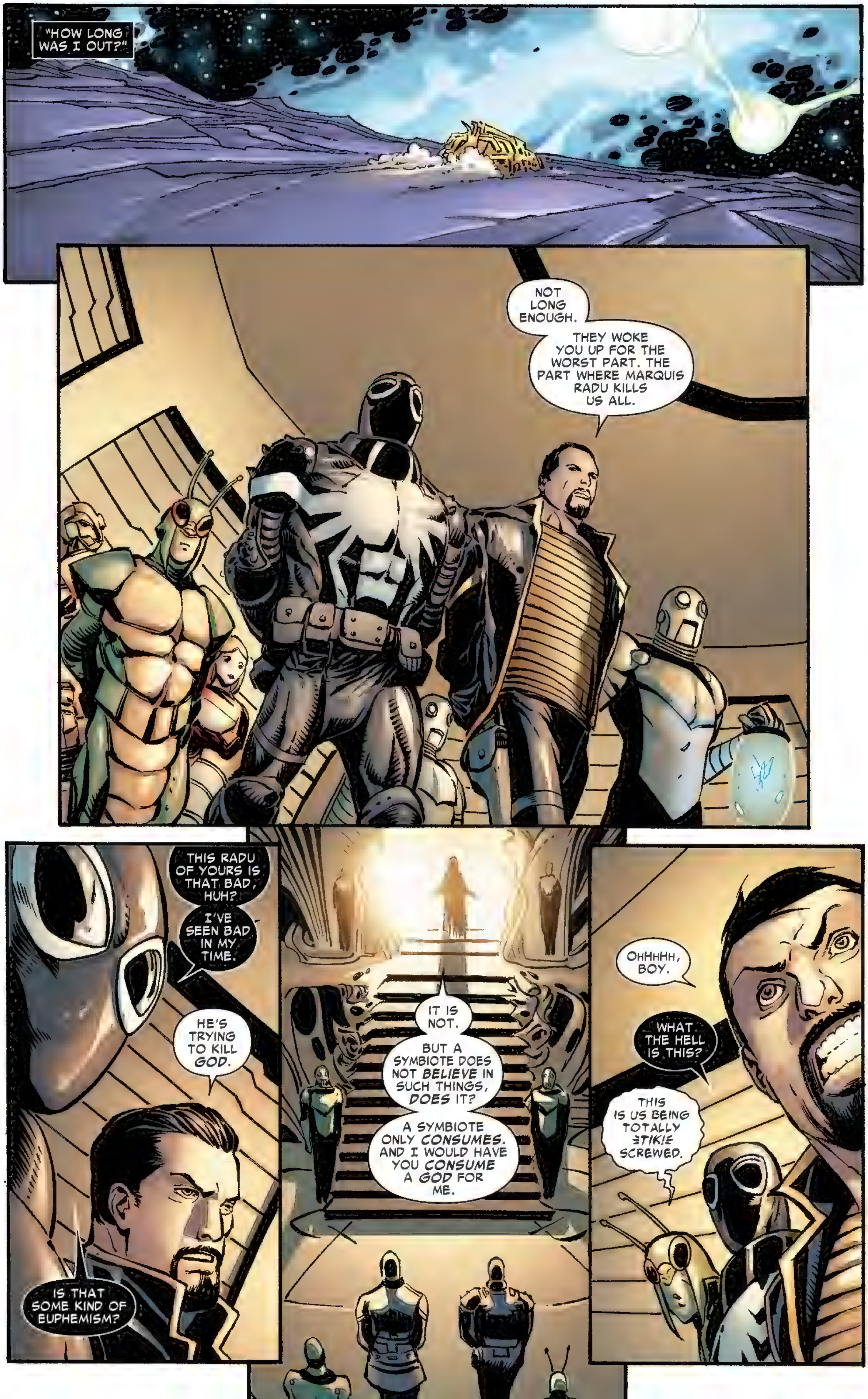

EVERYTHING IS SHAKING. WE JUST TOOK A HIT AND--
AND THEN I REMEMBER WE'RE IN SPACE.
GOING TO DIE.
CAN'T MOVE. CAN'T GET UP.
MARI, GET TO THE BRIDGE, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
QUARK, BUG--
KRA-KOOM
I WONDER WHERE YOU GO WHEN YOU DIE IN THE MICROVERSE?
MICRO-HEAVEN. HA.
I THINK OF BETTY.

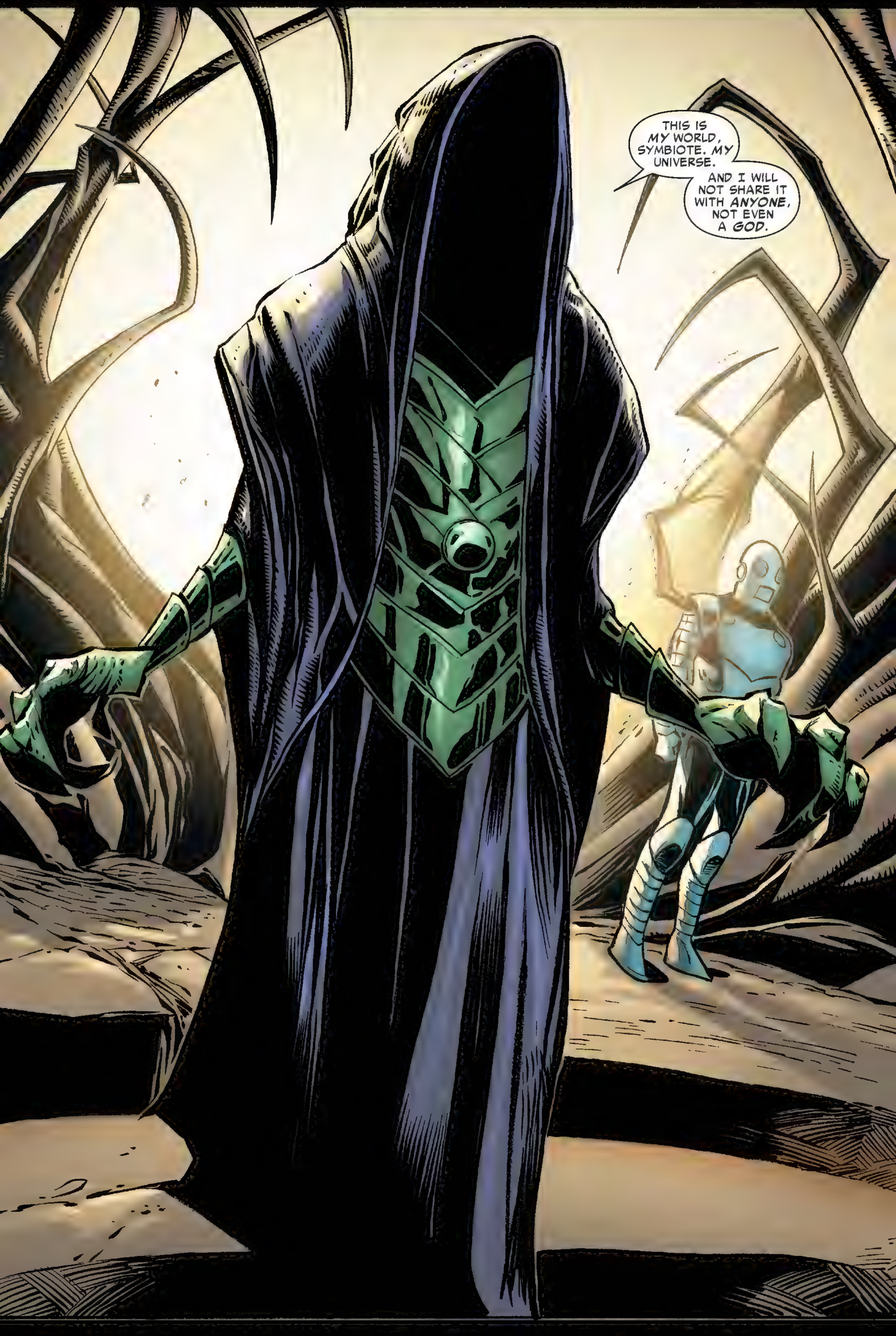

SHLIK!
GHH... HA... HAHAHAHA...
MORE
MORE!
SHUNK!
COME ON!
COME ON!
HAHA HAHA!

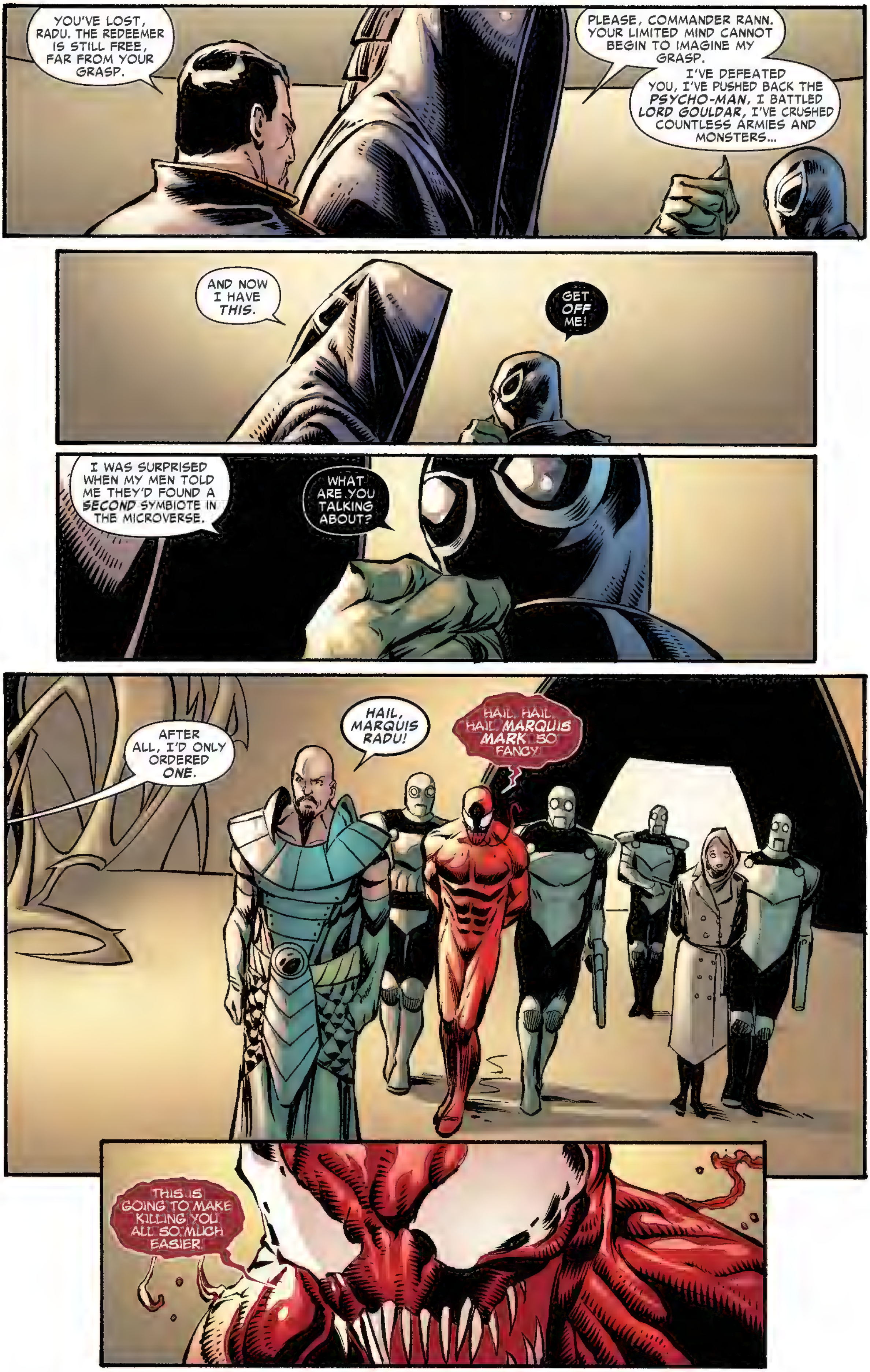

AAAHH!
OH, SWEET LORD. WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE. WE HAVE TO--
WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU GOING?!
I DO NOT INTEND TO DIE BY THAT MONSTER'S HANDS.
GET!
OFF!
REMEMBER.
REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE.
KILL YOU!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU, YOU SON OF A
AAAAAHHHHH!

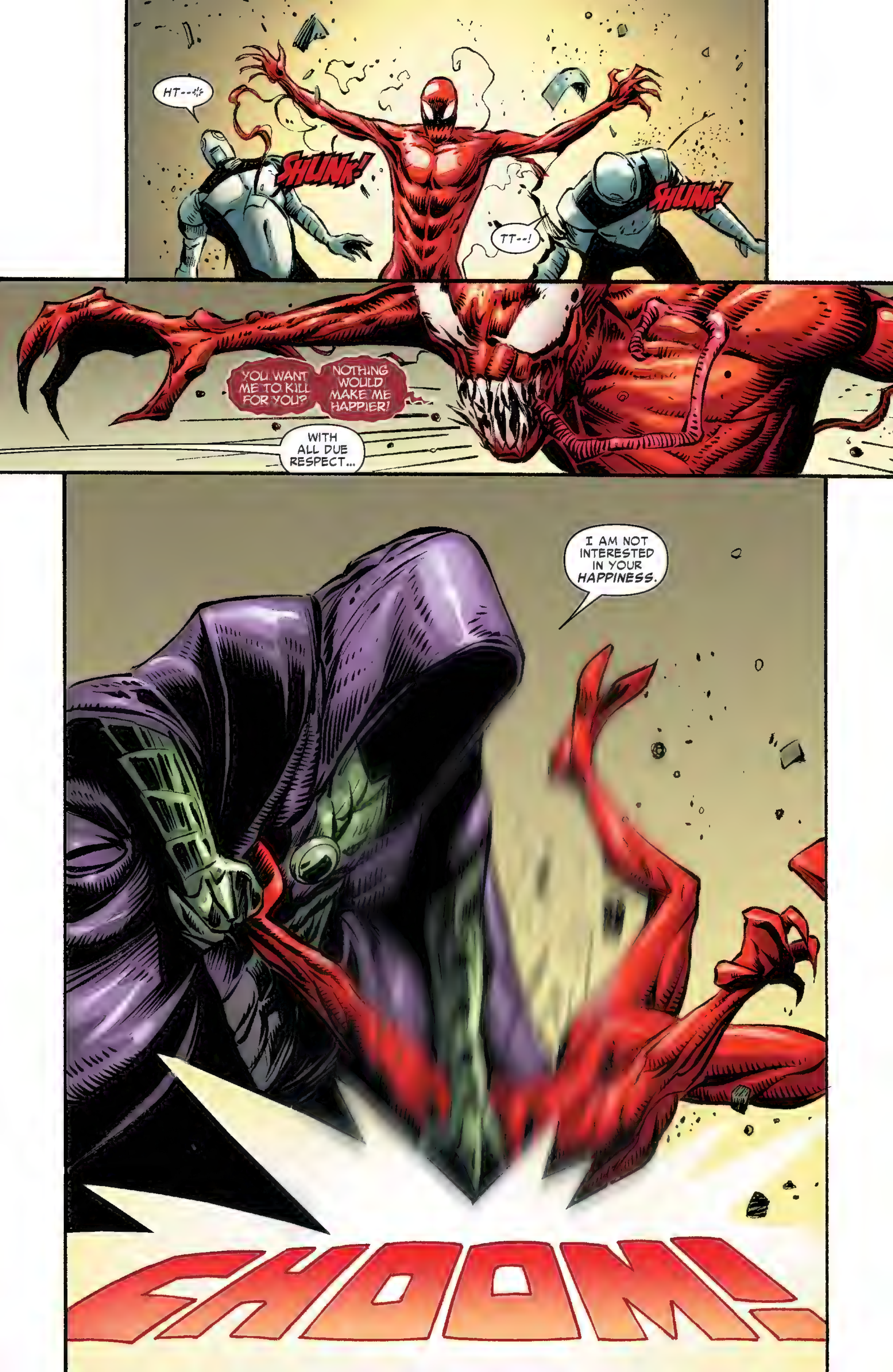

OHCRAP OHCRAPOH CRAP...
HEY... **HEY!**
ARE YOU OKAY?!
THE CORRUPTER... HIS CANCER SPREADS.
WHAT?!
EVERYTHING... FALLS APART.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
MOVE.
UHN!
NO.
NO!

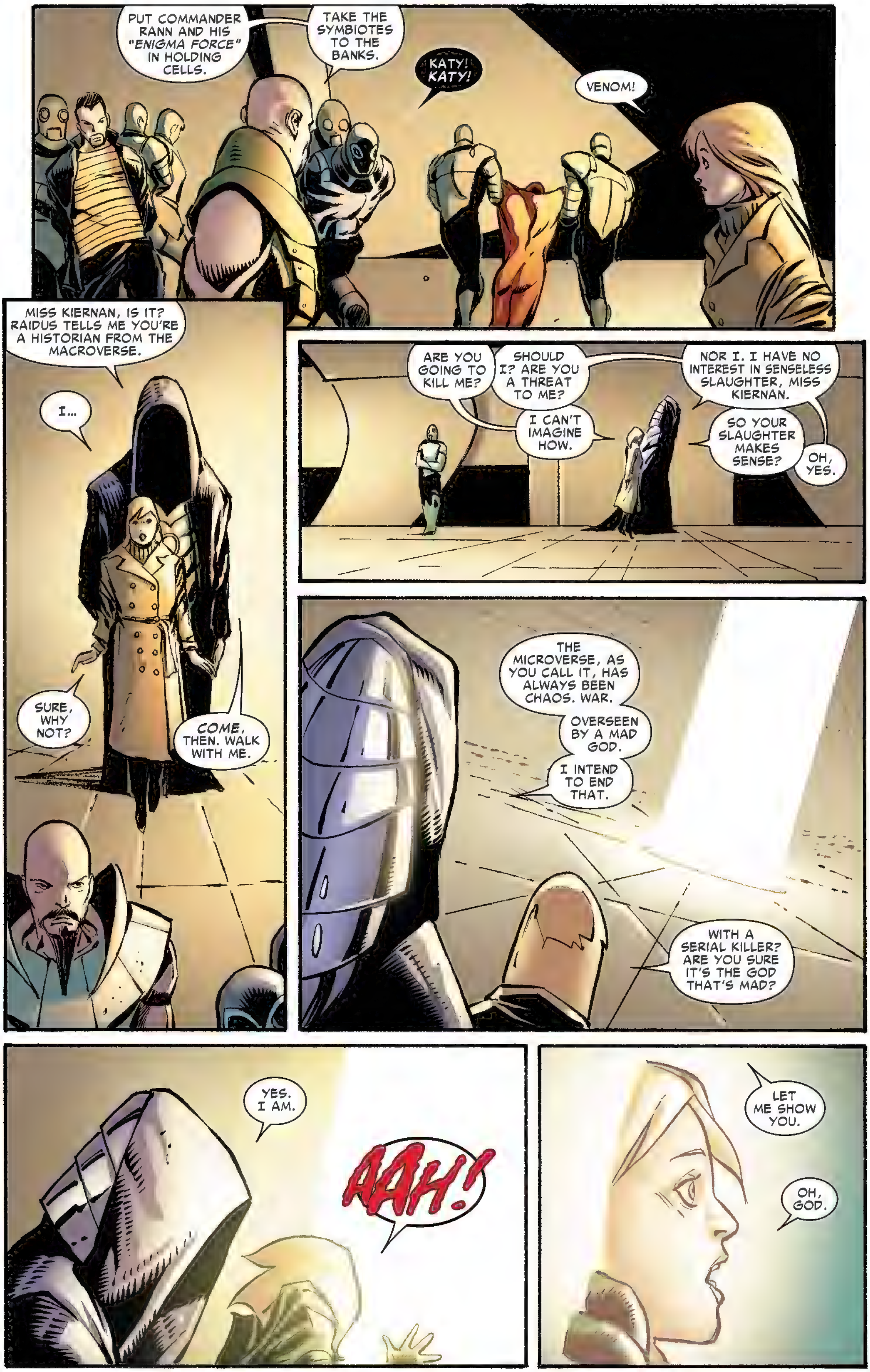

NO...
YEAH, DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING, EITHER, KATY-BABY.
HE WAS FUN. WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?
CLETUS KASADY!
AHH!
PAF!
STAND DOWN BY THE WORD OF MARQUIS RADU!
WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?
YOU KILLED MY ENTIRE TEAM.
NOT YET.
...
TAKE THEM TO THE MARQUIS.

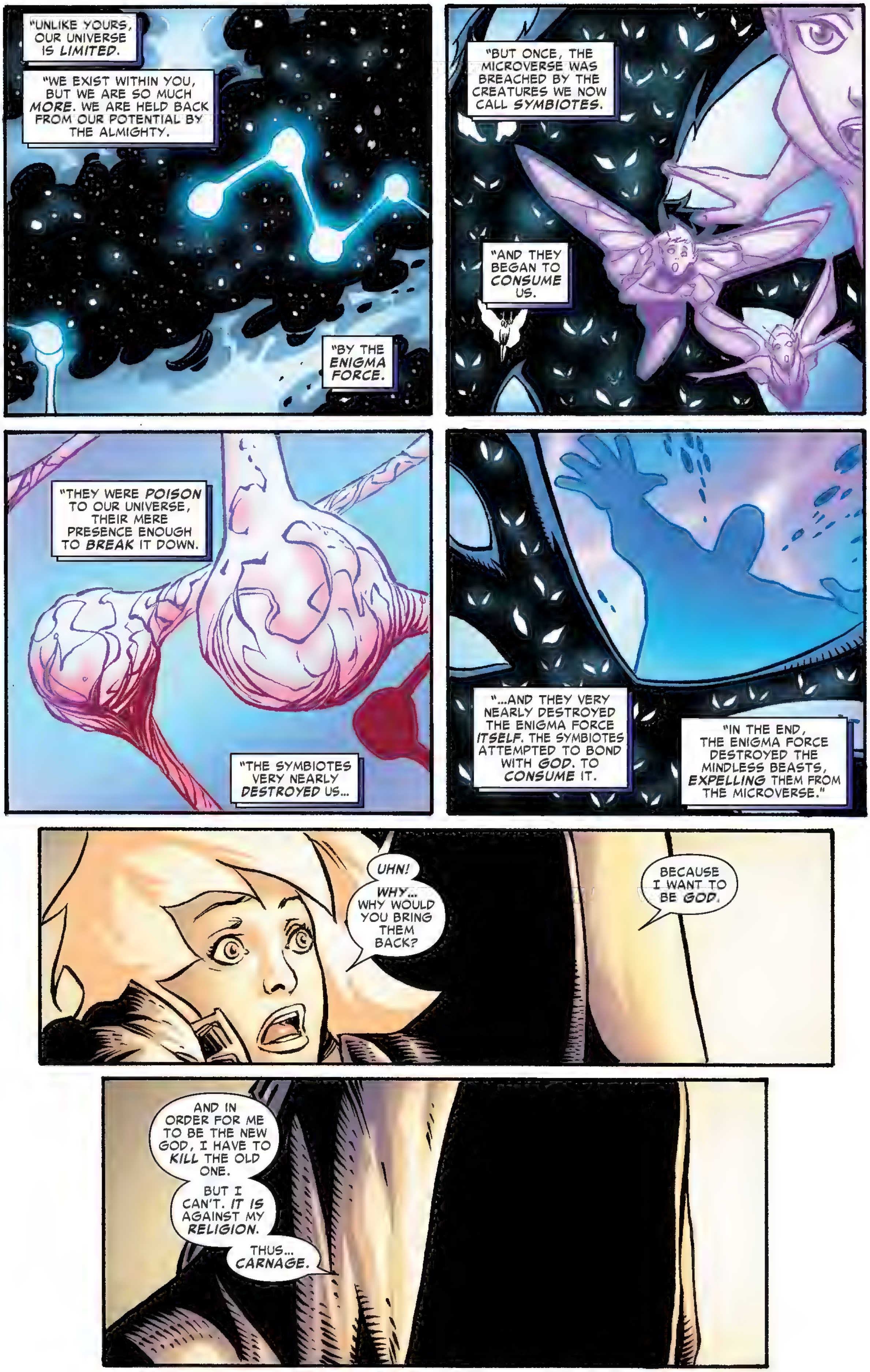

"HOW LONG WAS I OUT?"
NOT LONG ENOUGH.
THEY WOKE YOU UP FOR THE WORST PART. THE PART WHERE MARQUIS RADU KILLS US ALL.
THIS RADU OF YOURS IS THAT BAD, HUH?
I'VE SEEN BAD IN MY TIME.
HE'S TRYING TO KILL *GOD*.
IS THAT SOME KIND OF EUPHEMISM?
IT IS NOT.
BUT A SYMBIOTE DOES NOT *BELIEVE* IN SUCH THINGS, *DOES* IT?
A SYMBIOTE ONLY *CONSUMES*. AND I WOULD HAVE YOU *CONSUME* A *GOD* FOR ME.
OHHHHH, BOY.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
THIS IS US BEING TOTALLY ƎTIKIƎ SCREWED.

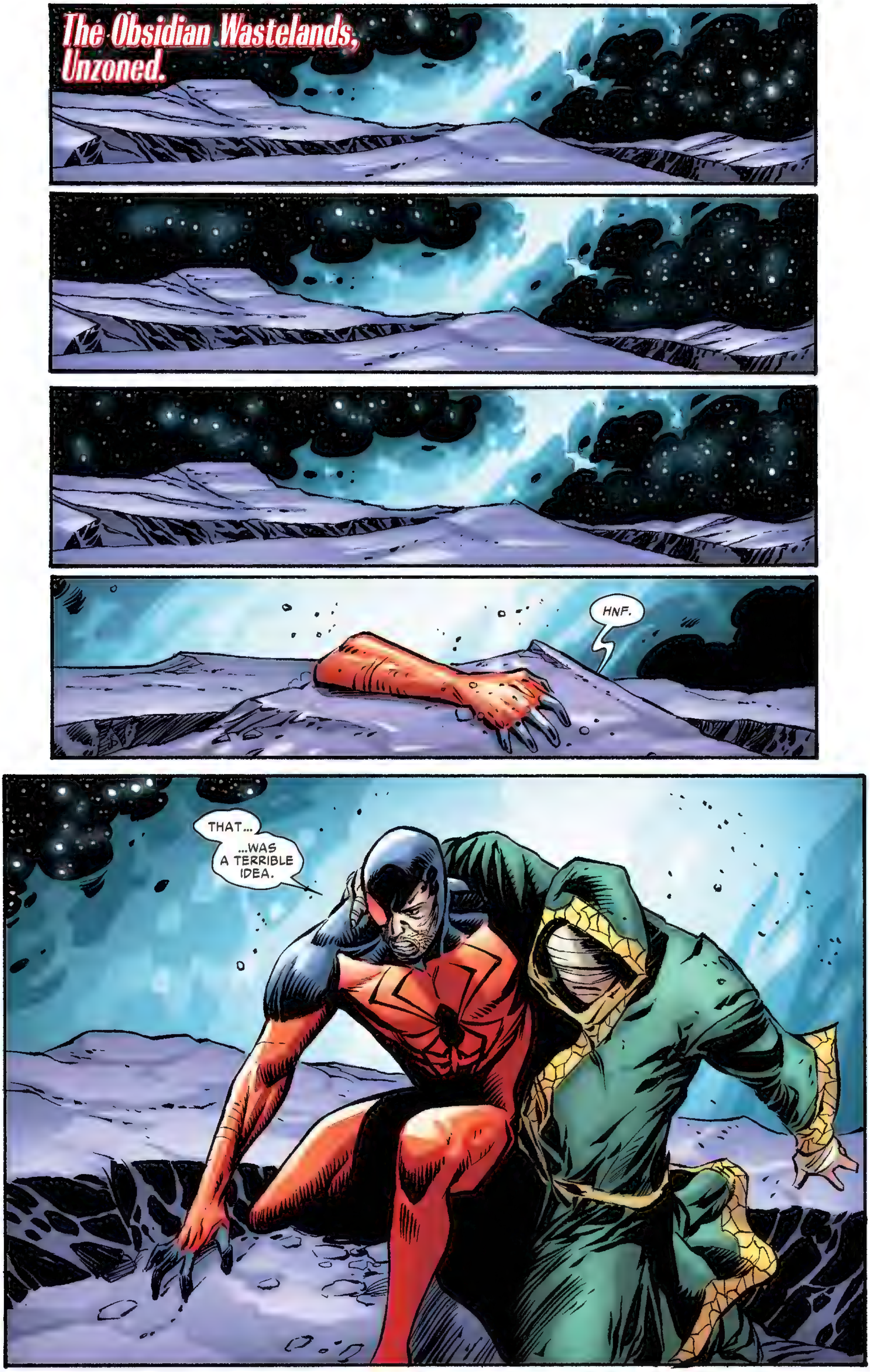

THIS IS *MY* WORLD, SYMBIOTE. *MY* UNIVERSE.
AND I WILL NOT SHARE IT WITH *ANYONE*, NOT EVEN A *GOD*.

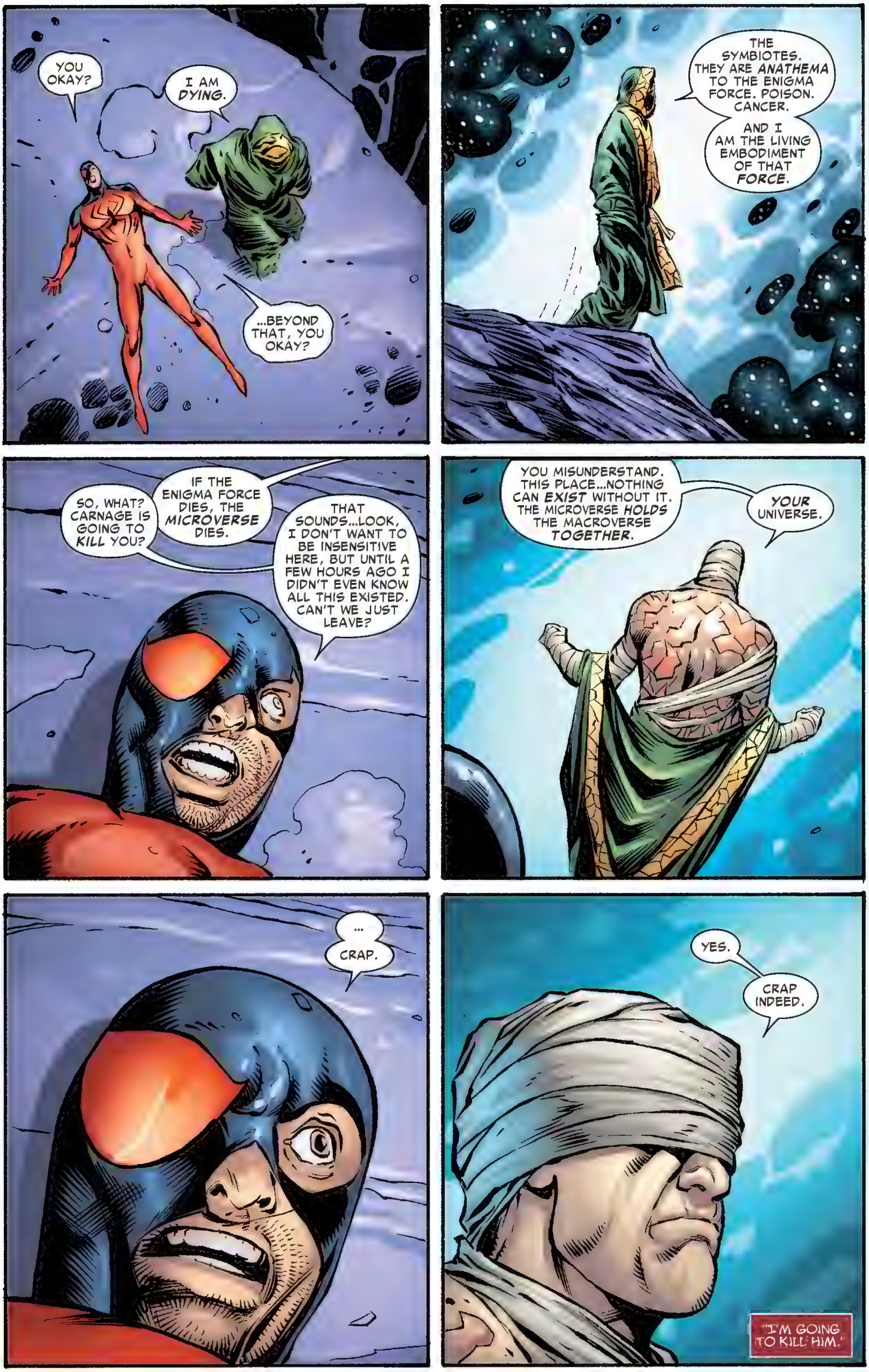

YOU'VE LOST, RADU. THE REDEEMER IS STILL FREE, FAR FROM YOUR GRASP.
PLEASE, COMMANDER RANN. YOUR LIMITED MIND CANNOT BEGIN TO IMAGINE MY GRASP.
I'VE DEFEATED YOU, I'VE PUSHED BACK THE *PSYCHO-MAN*, I BATTLED *LORD GOULDAR*, I'VE CRUSHED COUNTLESS ARMIES AND MONSTERS...
AND NOW I HAVE *THIS*.
GET *OFF* ME!
I WAS SURPRISED WHEN MY MEN TOLD ME THEY'D FOUND A *SECOND* SYMBIOTE IN THE MICROVERSE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AFTER ALL, I'D ONLY ORDERED *ONE*.
HAIL, MARQUIS RADU!
HAIL, HAIL, HAIL *MARQUIS MARK*. SO FANCY.
THIS IS GOING TO MAKE KILLING YOU ALL SO MUCH EASIER.

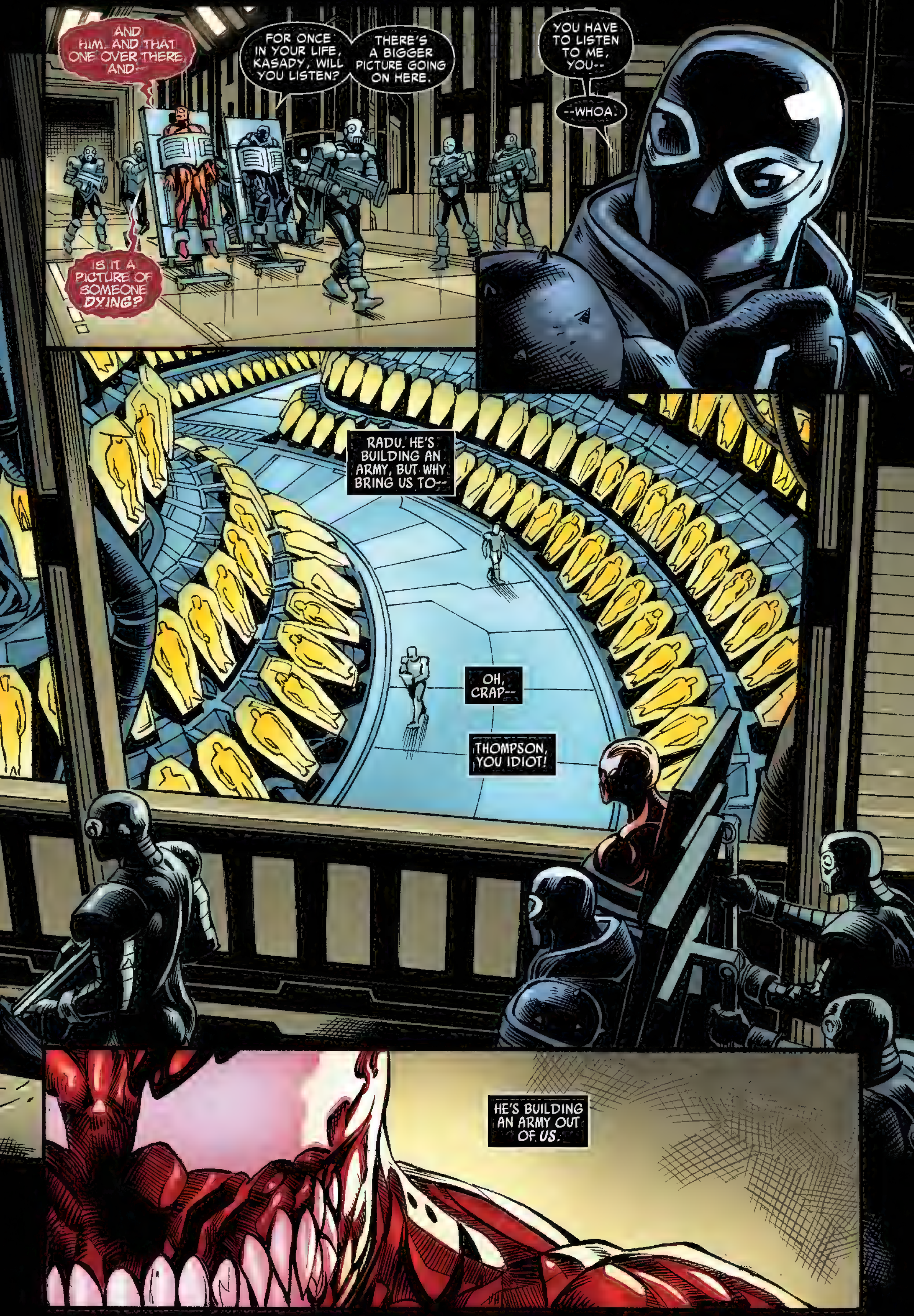

HT--!
SHUNK!
SHUNK!
TT--!
YOU WANT ME TO KILL FOR YOU?
NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER!
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...
I AM NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR *HAPPINESS*.
CHOOM!

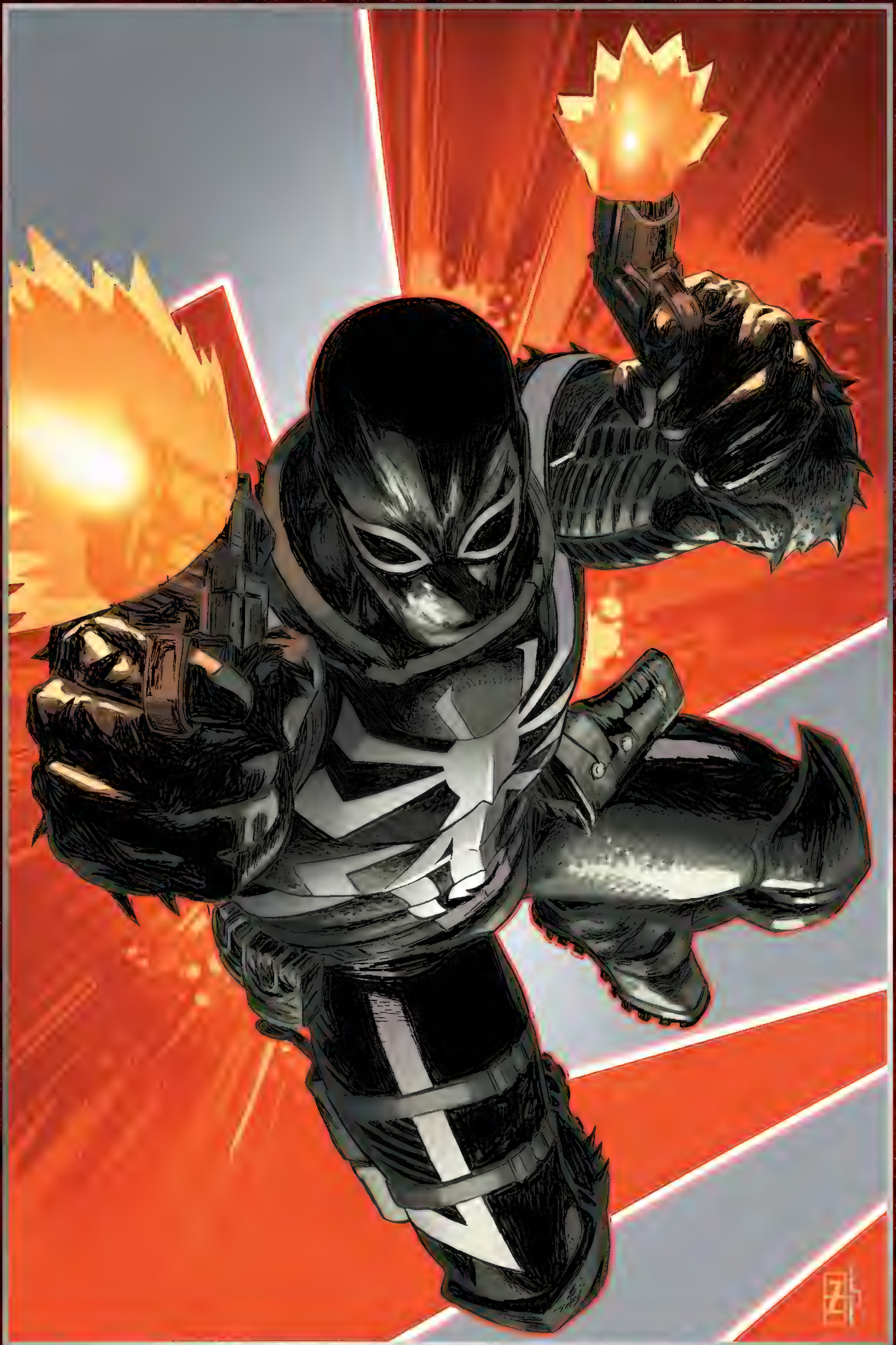

PUT COMMANDER RANN AND HIS *"ENIGMA FORCE"* IN HOLDING CELLS.
TAKE THE SYMBIOTES TO THE BANKS.
KATY! *KATY!*
VENOM!
MISS KIERNAN, IS IT? RAIDUS TELLS ME YOU'RE A HISTORIAN FROM THE MACROVERSE.
I...
SURE, WHY NOT?
COME, THEN. WALK WITH ME.
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME?
SHOULD I? ARE YOU A THREAT TO ME?
I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW.
NOR I. I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SENSELESS SLAUGHTER, MISS KIERNAN.
SO YOUR SLAUGHTER MAKES SENSE?
OH, YES.
THE MICROVERSE, AS YOU CALL IT, HAS ALWAYS BEEN CHAOS. WAR.
OVERSEEN BY A MAD GOD.
I INTEND TO END THAT.
WITH A SERIAL KILLER? ARE YOU SURE IT'S THE GOD THAT'S MAD?
YES. I AM.
AAH!
LET ME SHOW YOU.
OH, GOD.


"UNLIKE YOURS, OUR UNIVERSE IS *LIMITED*.
"WE EXIST WITHIN YOU, BUT WE ARE SO MUCH *MORE*. WE ARE HELD BACK FROM OUR POTENTIAL BY THE ALMIGHTY.
"BY THE *ENIGMA FORCE*.
"BUT ONCE, THE MICROVERSE WAS BREACHED BY THE CREATURES WE NOW CALL *SYMBIOTES*.
"AND THEY BEGAN TO *CONSUME* US.
"THEY WERE *POISON* TO OUR UNIVERSE, THEIR MERE PRESENCE ENOUGH TO *BREAK* IT DOWN.
"THE SYMBIOTES VERY NEARLY *DESTROYED* US...
"...AND THEY VERY NEARLY DESTROYED THE ENIGMA FORCE *ITSELF*. THE SYMBIOTES ATTEMPTED TO BOND WITH *GOD*. TO *CONSUME* IT.
"IN THE END, THE ENIGMA FORCE DESTROYED THE MINDLESS BEASTS, *EXPELLING* THEM FROM THE MICROVERSE."
UHN!
WHY... WHY WOULD YOU BRING THEM BACK?
BECAUSE I WANT TO BE *GOD*.
AND IN ORDER FOR ME TO BE THE NEW GOD, I HAVE TO *KILL* THE OLD ONE.
BUT I CAN'T. *IT IS* AGAINST MY *RELIGION*.
THUS... *CARNAGE*.

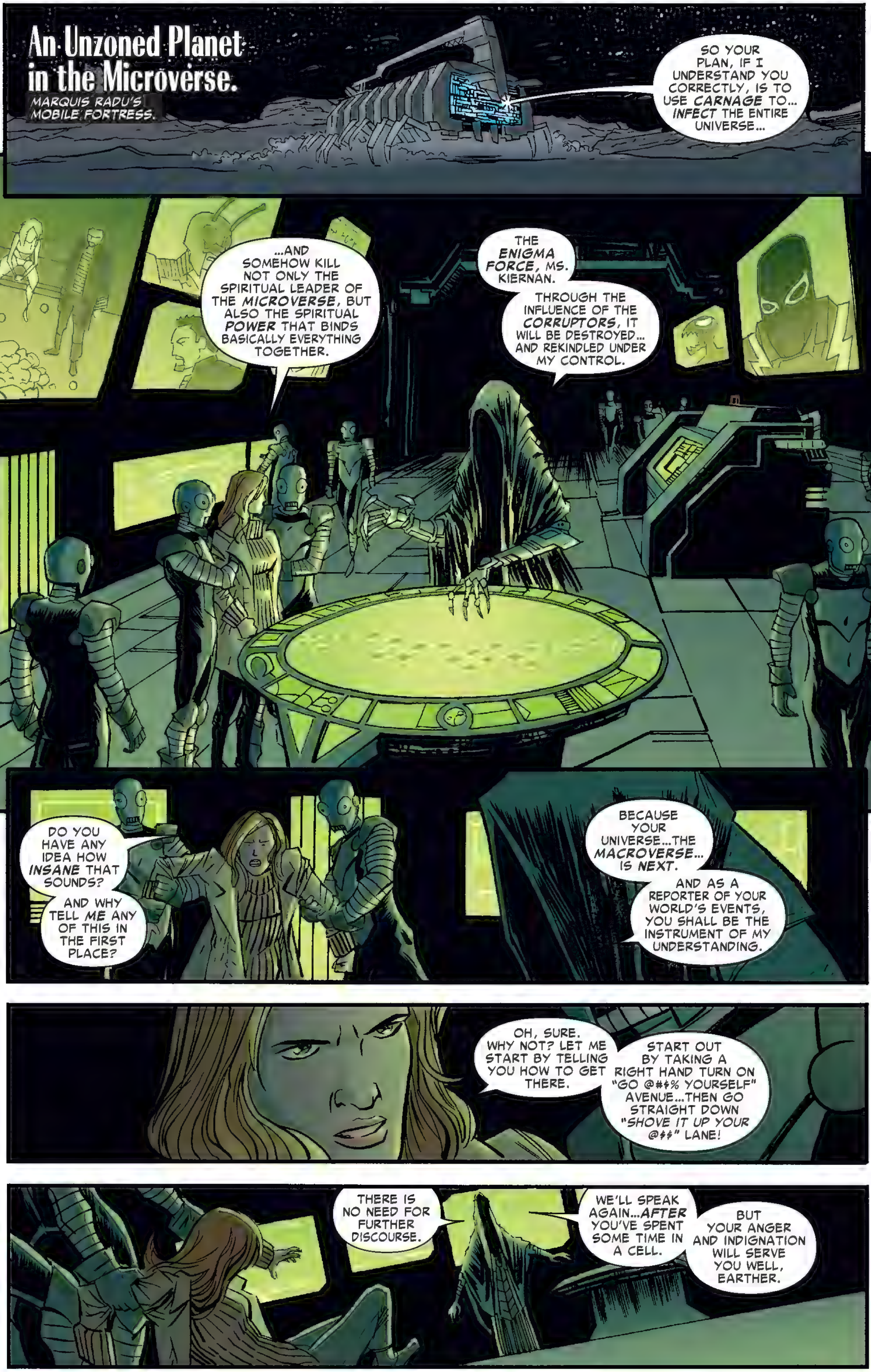

The Obsidian Wastelands, Unzoned.
HNF.
THAT...
...WAS A TERRIBLE IDEA.

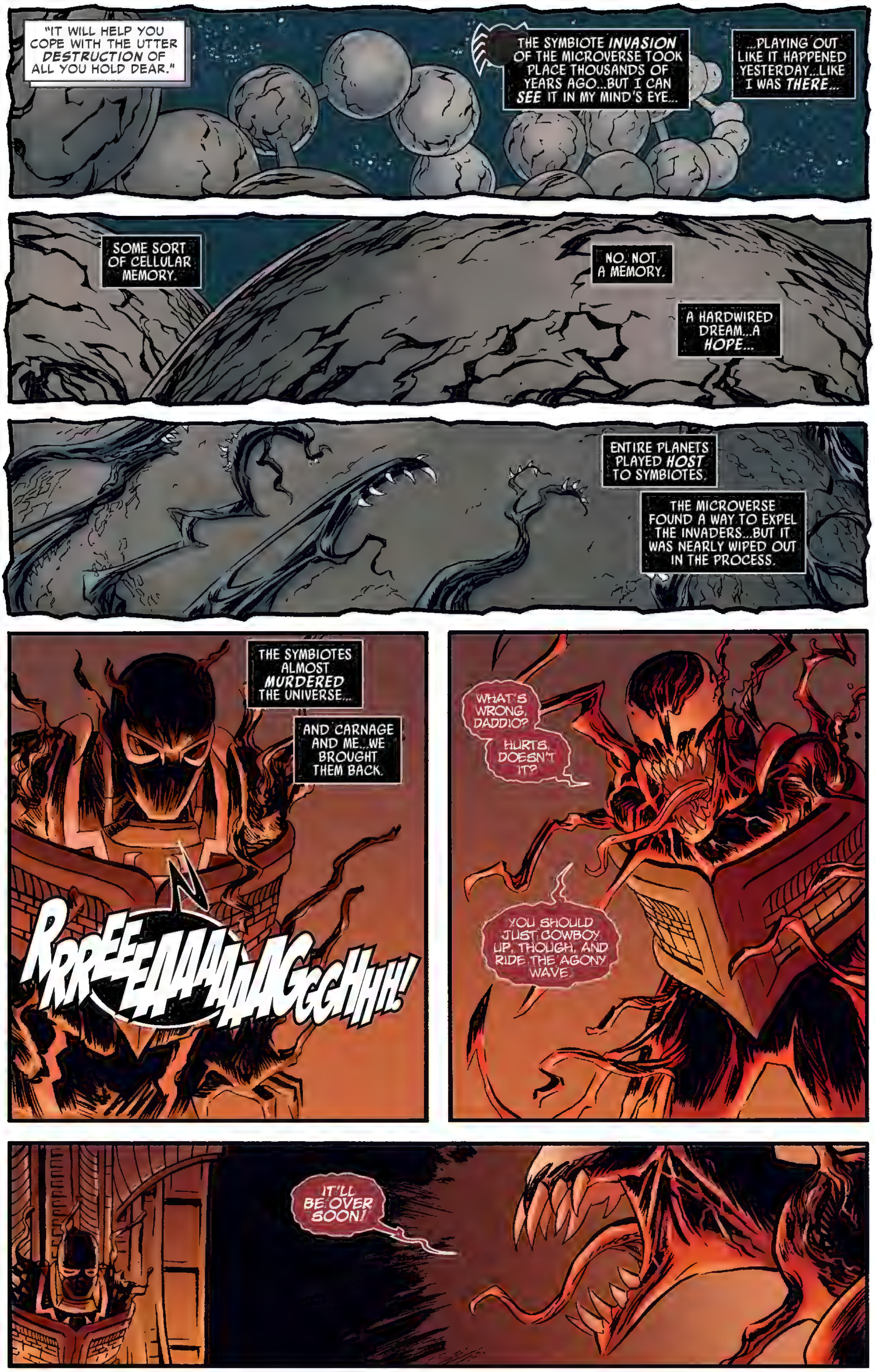

YOU OKAY?
I AM *DYING*.
...BEYOND THAT, YOU OKAY?
THE SYMBIOTES. THEY ARE *ANATHEMA* TO THE ENIGMA FORCE. POISON. CANCER.
AND I AM THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THAT *FORCE*.
SO, WHAT? CARNAGE IS GOING TO *KILL* YOU?
IF THE ENIGMA FORCE DIES, THE *MICROVERSE* DIES.
THAT SOUNDS...LOOK, I DON'T WANT TO BE INSENSITIVE HERE, BUT UNTIL A FEW HOURS AGO I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ALL THIS EXISTED. CAN'T WE JUST LEAVE?
YOU MISUNDERSTAND. THIS PLACE...NOTHING CAN *EXIST* WITHOUT IT. THE MICROVERSE *HOLDS* THE MACROVERSE *TOGETHER*.
YOUR UNIVERSE.
... CRAP.
YES.
CRAP INDEED.
"I'M GOING TO KILL HIM."

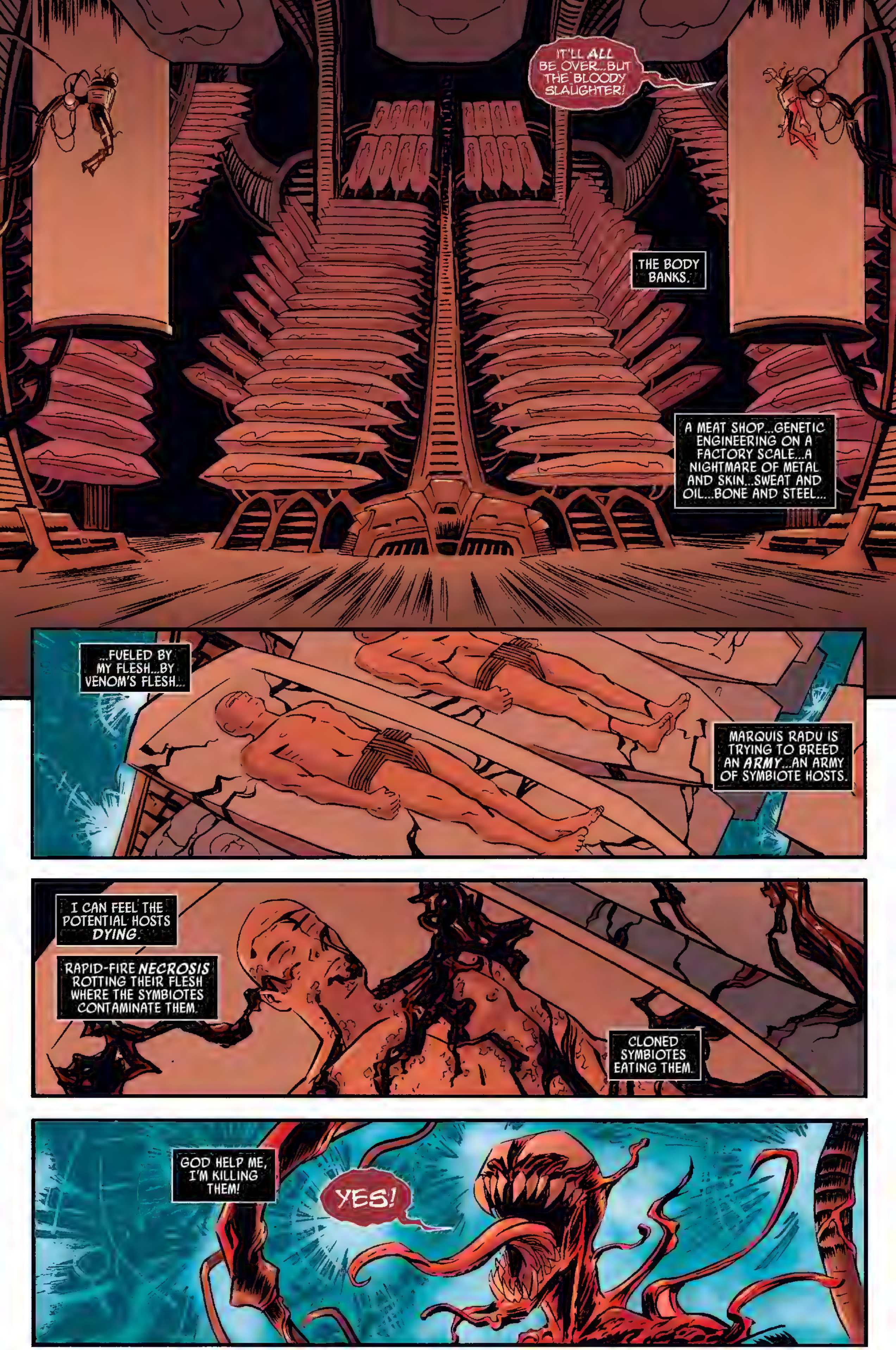

AND HIM. AND THAT ONE OVER THERE AND--
IS IT A PICTURE OF SOMEONE *DYING?*
FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE, KASADY, WILL YOU LISTEN?
THERE'S A BIGGER PICTURE GOING ON HERE.
YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME, YOU--
--WHOA.
RADU. HE'S BUILDING AN ARMY, BUT WHY BRING US TO--
OH, CRAP--
THOMPSON, YOU IDIOT!
HE'S BUILDING AN ARMY OUT OF *US*.

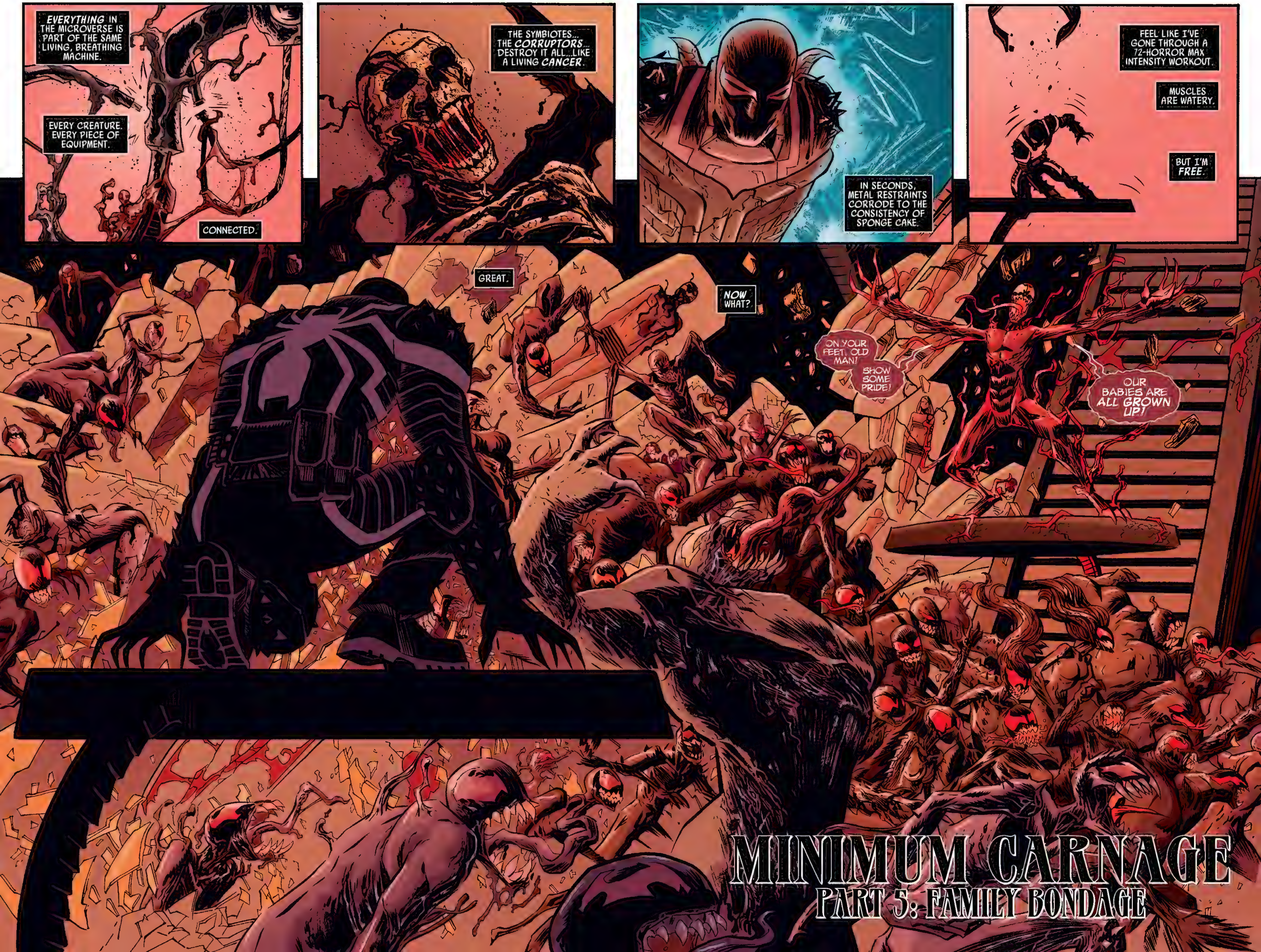


venom #27

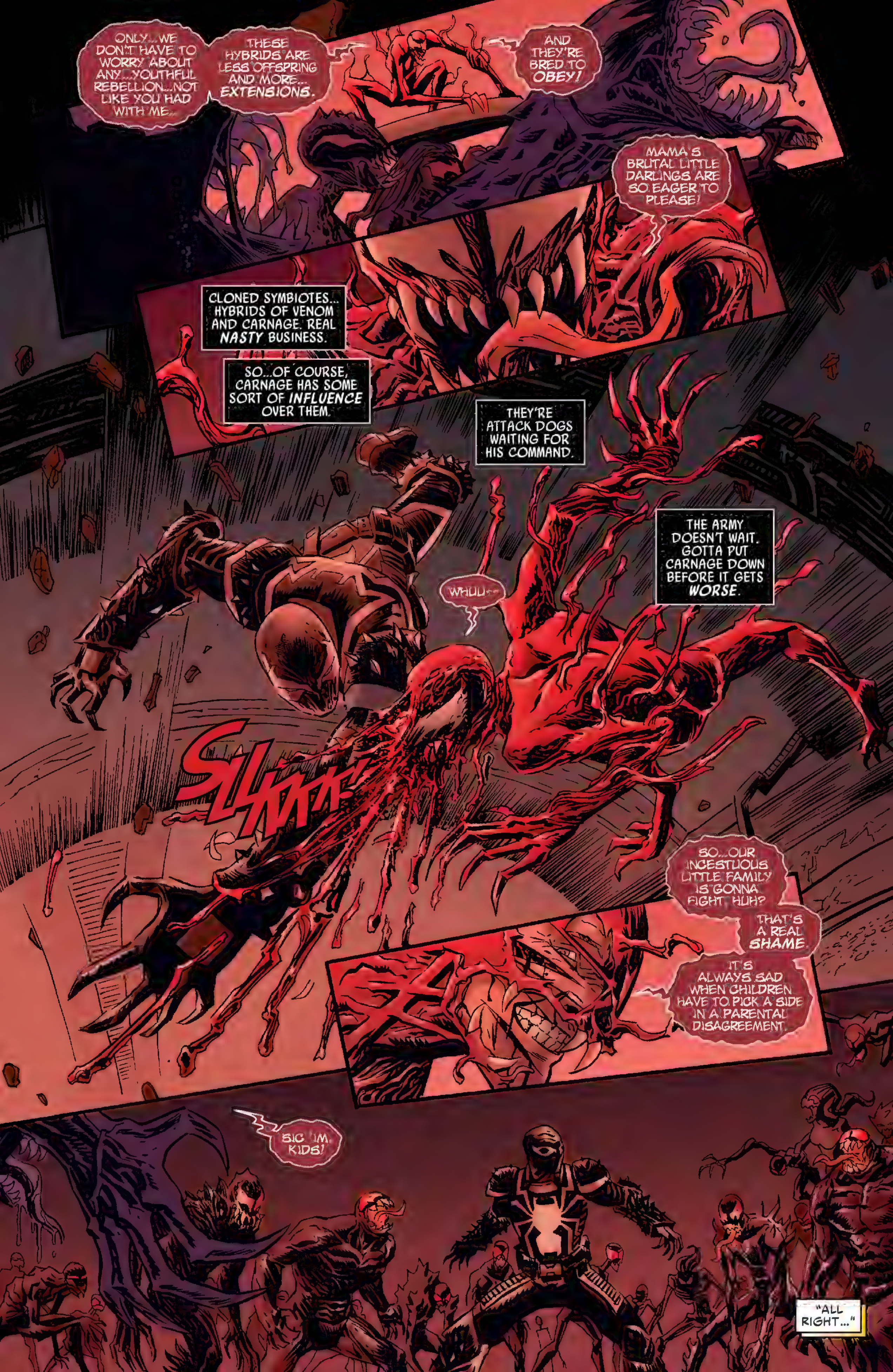

An Unzoned Planet in the Microverse.
MARQUIS RADU'S MOBILE FORTRESS.
SO YOUR PLAN, IF I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY, IS TO USE *CARNAGE* TO... *INFECT* THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE...
...AND SOMEHOW KILL NOT ONLY THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE *MICROVERSE*, BUT ALSO THE SPIRITUAL *POWER* THAT BINDS BASICALLY EVERYTHING TOGETHER.
THE *ENIGMA FORCE*, MS. KIERNAN.
THROUGH THE INFLUENCE OF THE *CORRUPTORS*, IT WILL BE DESTROYED... AND REKINDLED UNDER MY CONTROL.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW *INSANE* THAT SOUNDS?
AND WHY TELL *ME* ANY OF THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE?
BECAUSE YOUR UNIVERSE...THE *MACROVERSE*... IS *NEXT*.
AND AS A REPORTER OF YOUR WORLD'S EVENTS, YOU SHALL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF MY UNDERSTANDING.
OH, SURE. WHY NOT? LET ME START BY TELLING YOU HOW TO GET THERE.
START OUT BY TAKING A RIGHT HAND TURN ON "GO @#$% YOURSELF" AVENUE...THEN GO STRAIGHT DOWN "*SHOVE IT UP YOUR @$$*" LANE!
THERE IS NO NEED FOR FURTHER DISCOURSE.
WE'LL SPEAK AGAIN...*AFTER* YOU'VE SPENT SOME TIME IN A CELL.
BUT YOUR ANGER AND INDIGNATION WILL SERVE YOU WELL, EARTHER.

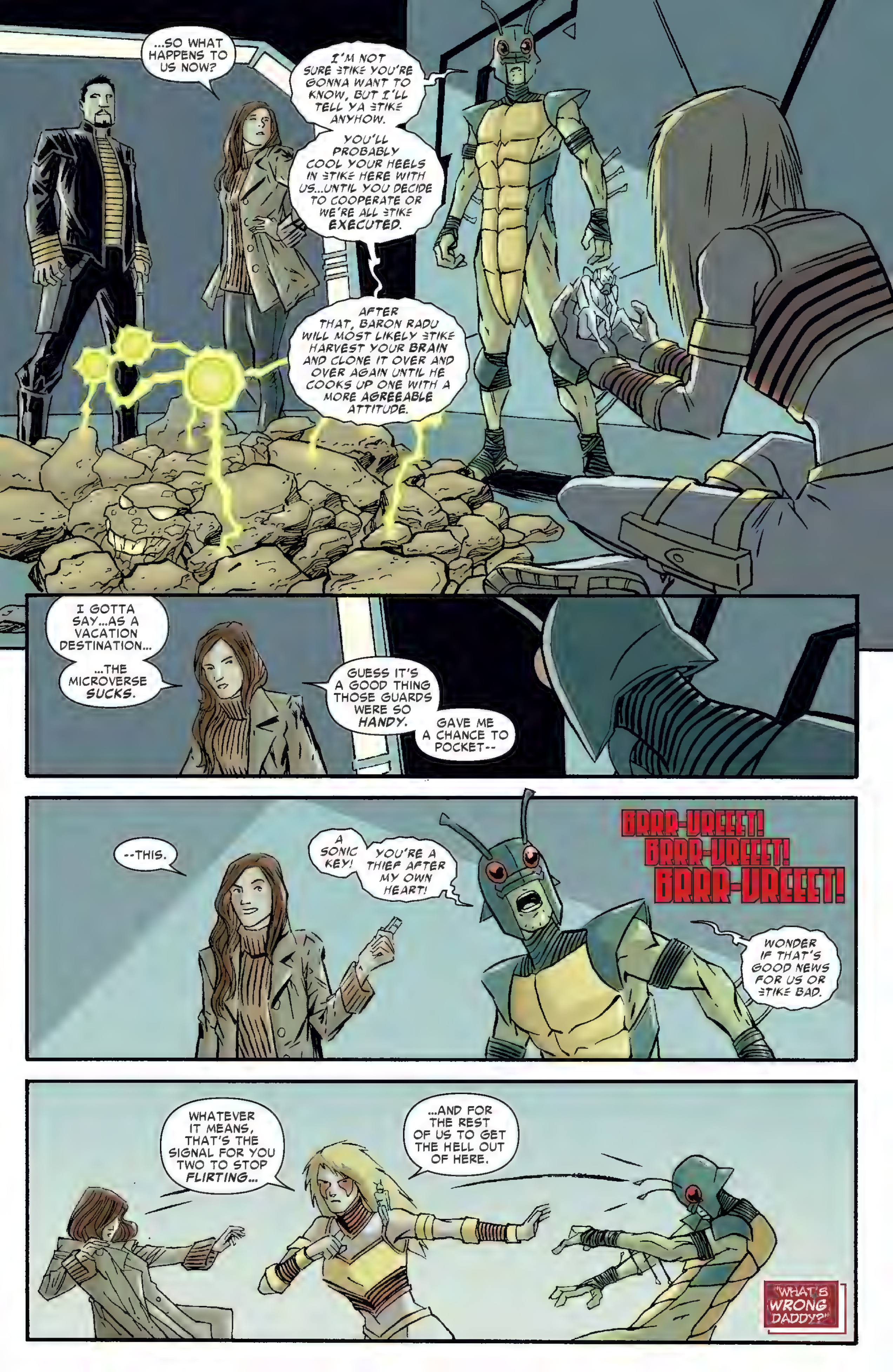

"IT WILL HELP YOU COPE WITH THE UTTER DESTRUCTION OF ALL YOU HOLD DEAR."
THE SYMBIOTE INVASION OF THE MICROVERSE TOOK PLACE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO...BUT I CAN SEE IT IN MY MIND'S EYE...
...PLAYING OUT LIKE IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY...LIKE I WAS THERE...
SOME SORT OF CELLULAR MEMORY.
NO. NOT A MEMORY.
A HARDWIRED DREAM...A HOPE...
ENTIRE PLANETS PLAYED HOST TO SYMBIOTES.
THE MICROVERSE FOUND A WAY TO EXPEL THE INVADERS...BUT IT WAS NEARLY WIPED OUT IN THE PROCESS.
THE SYMBIOTES ALMOST MURDERED THE UNIVERSE...
AND CARNAGE AND ME...WE BROUGHT THEM BACK.
RRREEEAAAAAAAGGGHHH!
WHAT'S WRONG, DADDIO?
HURTS, DOESN'T IT?
YOU SHOULD JUST COWBOY UP, THOUGH, AND RIDE THE AGONY WAVE.
IT'LL BE OVER SOON!

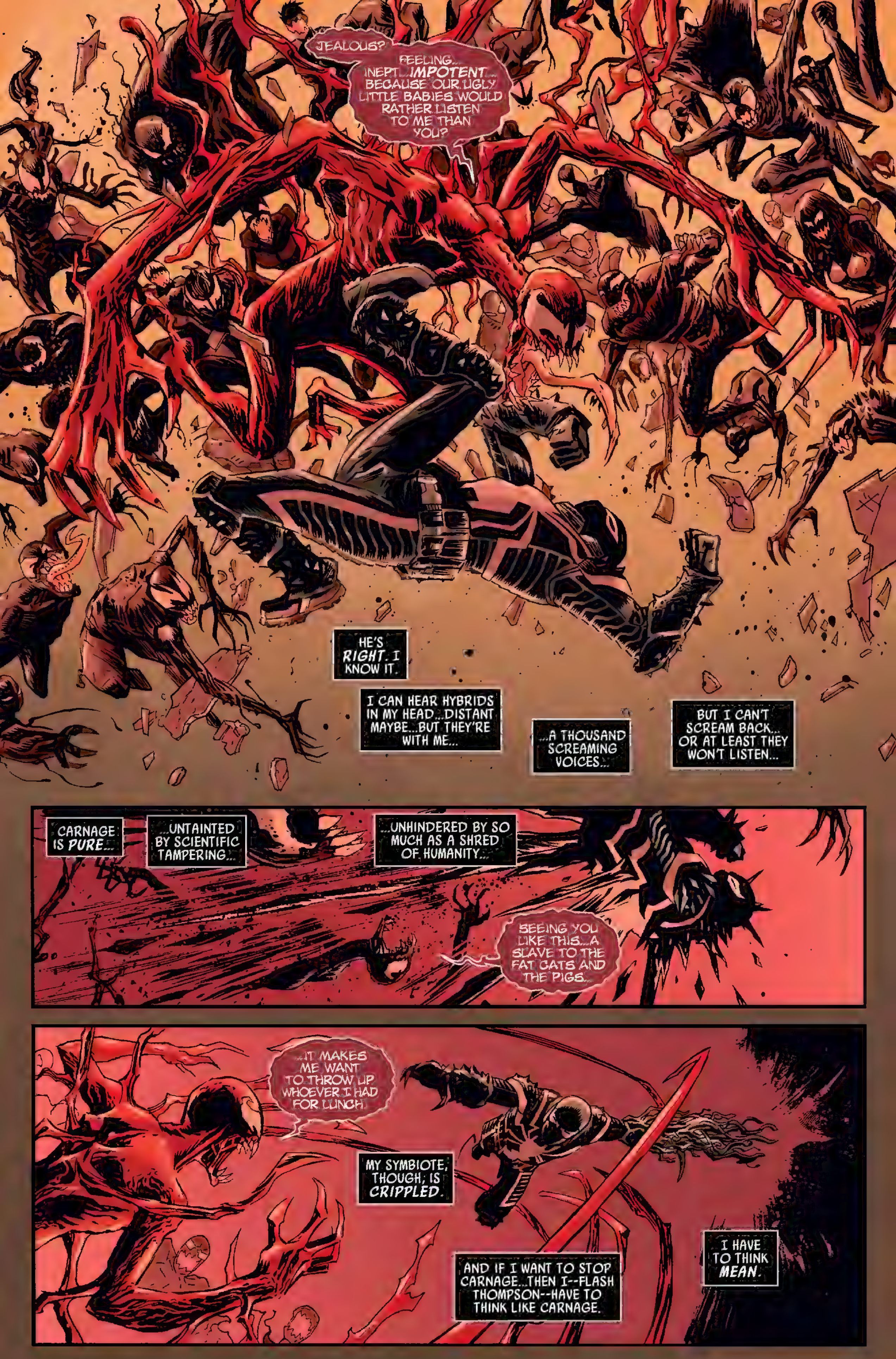

IT'LL ALL BE OVER...BUT THE BLOODY SLAUGHTER!
THE BODY BANKS.
A MEAT SHOP...GENETIC ENGINEERING ON A FACTORY SCALE...A NIGHTMARE OF METAL AND SKIN...SWEAT AND OIL...BONE AND STEEL...
...FUELED BY MY FLESH...BY VENOM'S FLESH...
MARQUIS RADU IS TRYING TO BREED AN ARMY...AN ARMY OF SYMBIOTE HOSTS.
I CAN FEEL THE POTENTIAL HOSTS DYING.
RAPID-FIRE NECROSIS ROTTING THEIR FLESH WHERE THE SYMBIOTES CONTAMINATE THEM.
CLONED SYMBIOTES EATING THEM.
GOD HELP ME, I'M KILLING THEM!
YES!

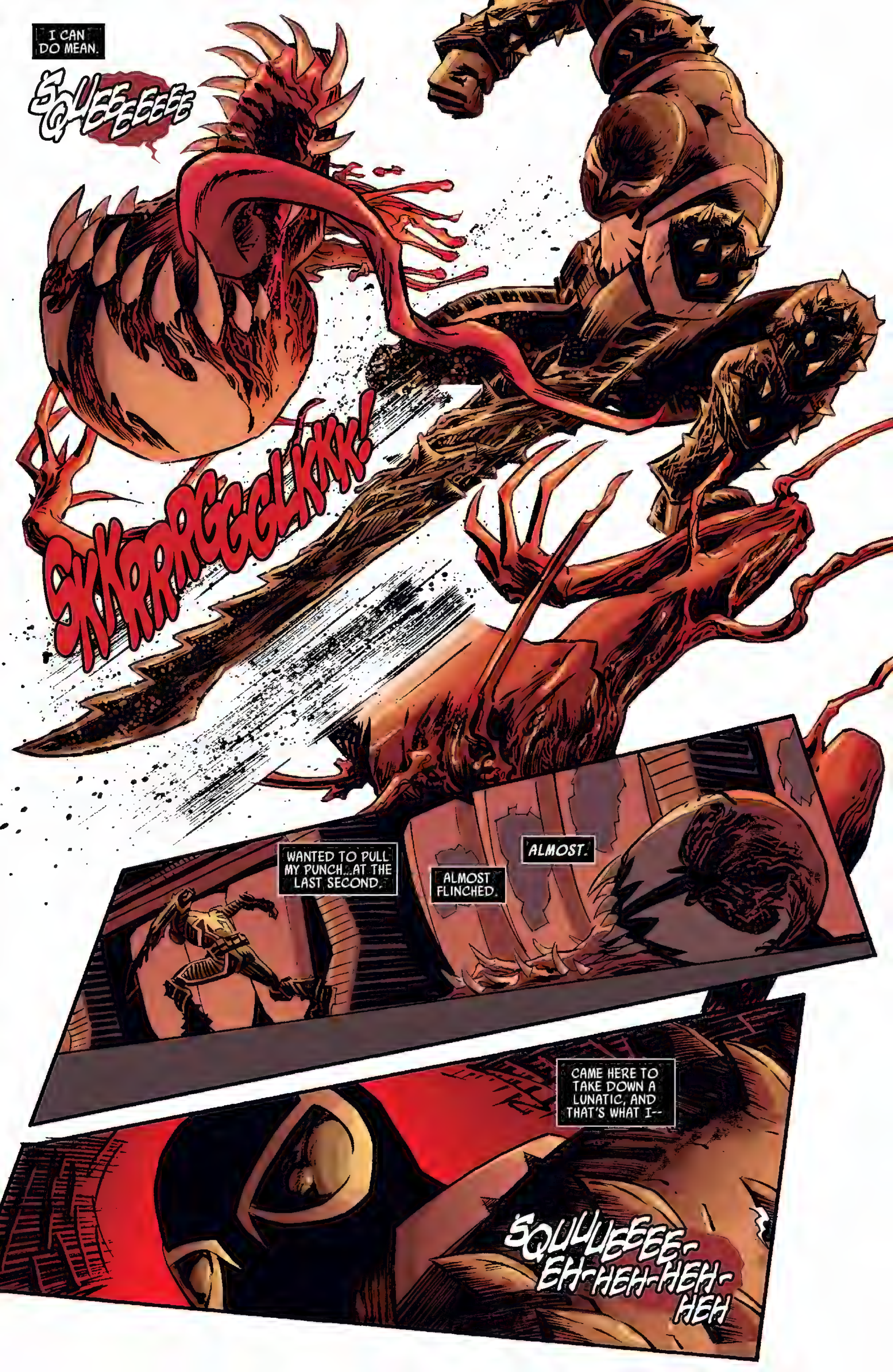

EVERYTHING IN THE MICROVERSE IS PART OF THE SAME LIVING, BREATHING MACHINE.
EVERY CREATURE. EVERY PIECE OF EQUIPMENT.
CONNECTED.
THE SYMBIOTES... THE *CORRUPTORS*... DESTROY IT ALL...LIKE A LIVING *CANCER*.
IN SECONDS, METAL RESTRAINTS CORRODE TO THE CONSISTENCY OF SPONGE CAKE.
FEEL LIKE I'VE GONE THROUGH A 72-HORROR MAX INTENSITY WORKOUT.
MUSCLES ARE WATERY.
BUT I'M *FREE*.
GREAT.
NOW WHAT?
ON YOUR FEET, OLD MAN!
SHOW SOME PRIDE!
OUR BABIES ARE *ALL GROWN UP!*
MINIMUM CARNAGE
PART 5: FAMILY BONDAGE

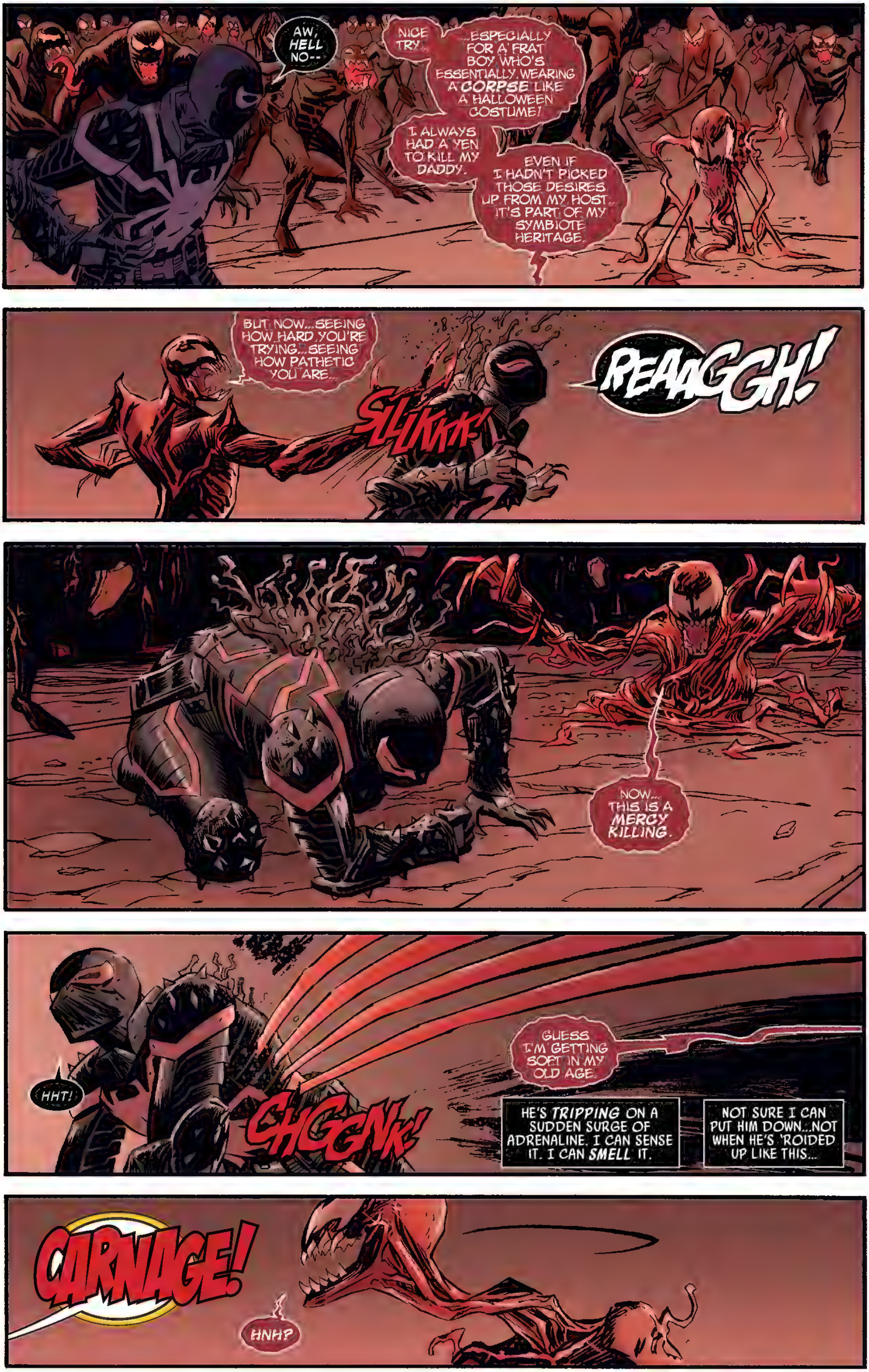
[redacted]

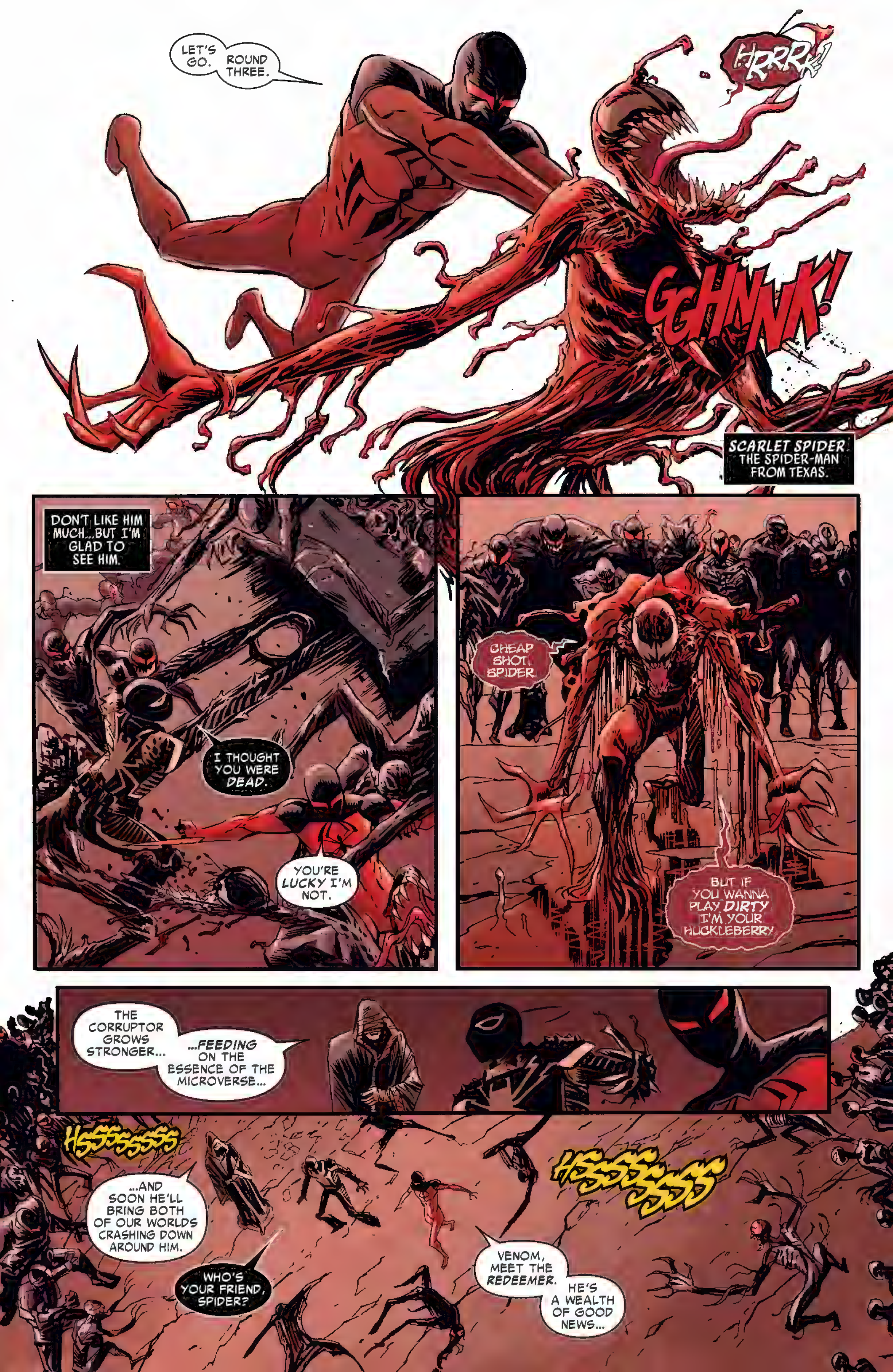

ONLY...WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY...YOUTHFUL REBELLION...NOT LIKE YOU HAD WITH ME...
THESE HYBRIDS ARE LESS OFFSPRING AND MORE... EXTENSIONS.
AND THEY'RE BRED TO OBEY!
MAMA'S BRUTAL LITTLE DARLINGS ARE SO EAGER TO PLEASE!
CLONED SYMBIOTES... HYBRIDS OF VENOM AND CARNAGE. REAL NASTY BUSINESS.
SO...OF COURSE, CARNAGE HAS SOME SORT OF INFLUENCE OVER THEM.
THEY'RE ATTACK DOGS WAITING FOR HIS COMMAND.
THE ARMY DOESN'T WAIT. GOTTA PUT CARNAGE DOWN BEFORE IT GETS WORSE.
WHUU--
SLUKKK!
SO...OUR INCESTUOUS LITTLE FAMILY IS GONNA FIGHT, HUH?
THAT'S A REAL SHAME.
IT'S ALWAYS SAD WHEN CHILDREN HAVE TO PICK A SIDE IN A PARENTAL DISAGREEMENT.
SIC 'IM, KIDS!
"ALL RIGHT..."

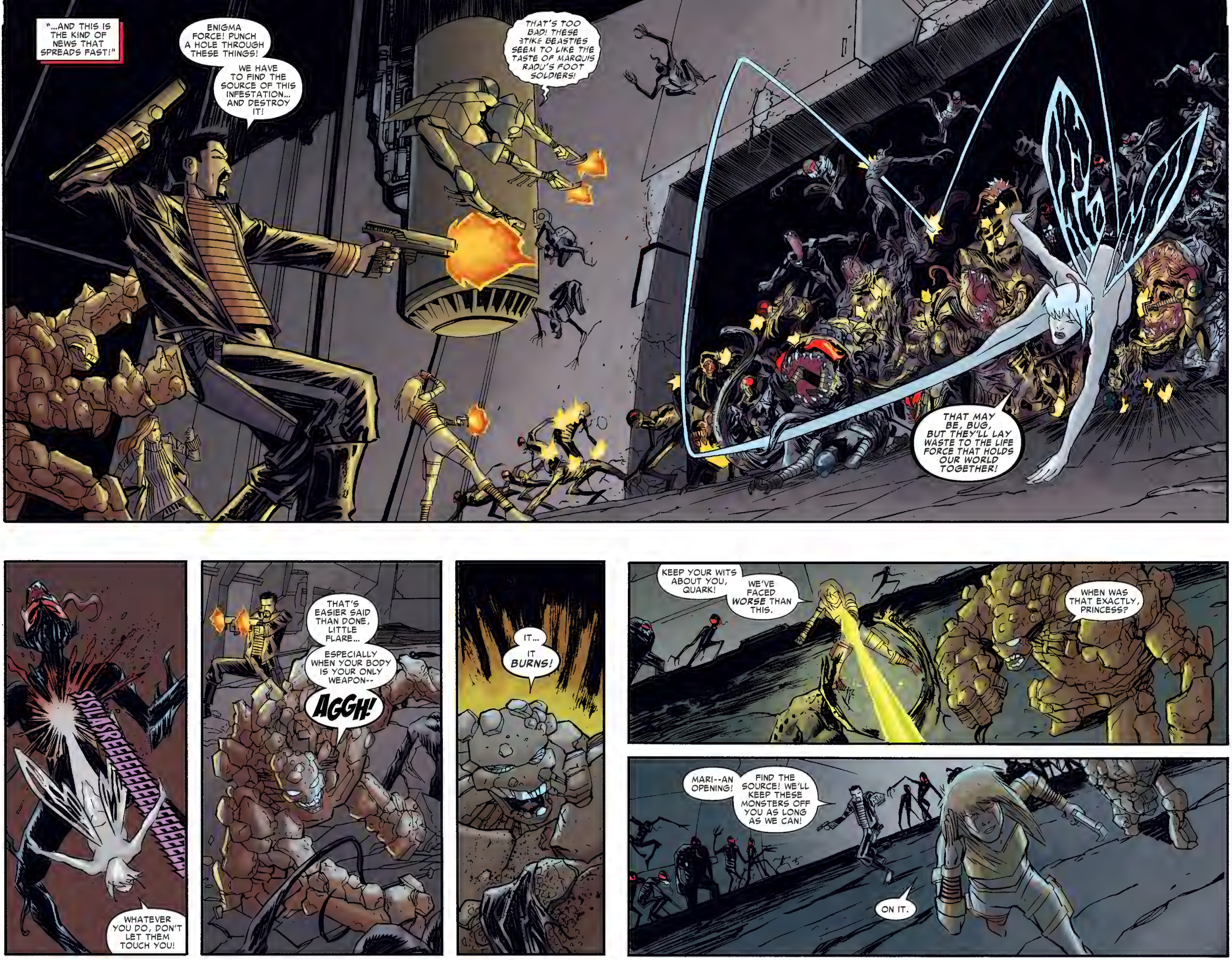

...SO WHAT HAPPENS TO US NOW?
I'M NOT SURE ΞTIKΞ YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO KNOW, BUT I'LL TELL YA ΞTIKΞ ANYHOW.
YOU'LL PROBABLY COOL YOUR HEELS IN ΞTIKΞ HERE WITH US...UNTIL YOU DECIDE TO COOPERATE OR WE'RE ALL ΞTIKΞ EXECUTED.
AFTER THAT, BARON RADU WILL MOST LIKELY ΞTIKΞ HARVEST YOUR BRAIN AND CLONE IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN UNTIL HE COOKS UP ONE WITH A MORE AGREEABLE ATTITUDE.
I GOTTA SAY...AS A VACATION DESTINATION...
...THE MICROVERSE SUCKS.
GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING THOSE GUARDS WERE SO HANDY.
GAVE ME A CHANCE TO POCKET--
--THIS.
A SONIC KEY!
YOU'RE A THIEF AFTER MY OWN HEART!
BRRR-UREEET! BRRR-UREEET! BRRR-UREEET!
WONDER IF THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR US OR ΞTIKΞ BAD.
WHATEVER IT MEANS, THAT'S THE SIGNAL FOR YOU TWO TO STOP FLIRTING...
...AND FOR THE REST OF US TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
"WHAT'S WRONG DADDY?"

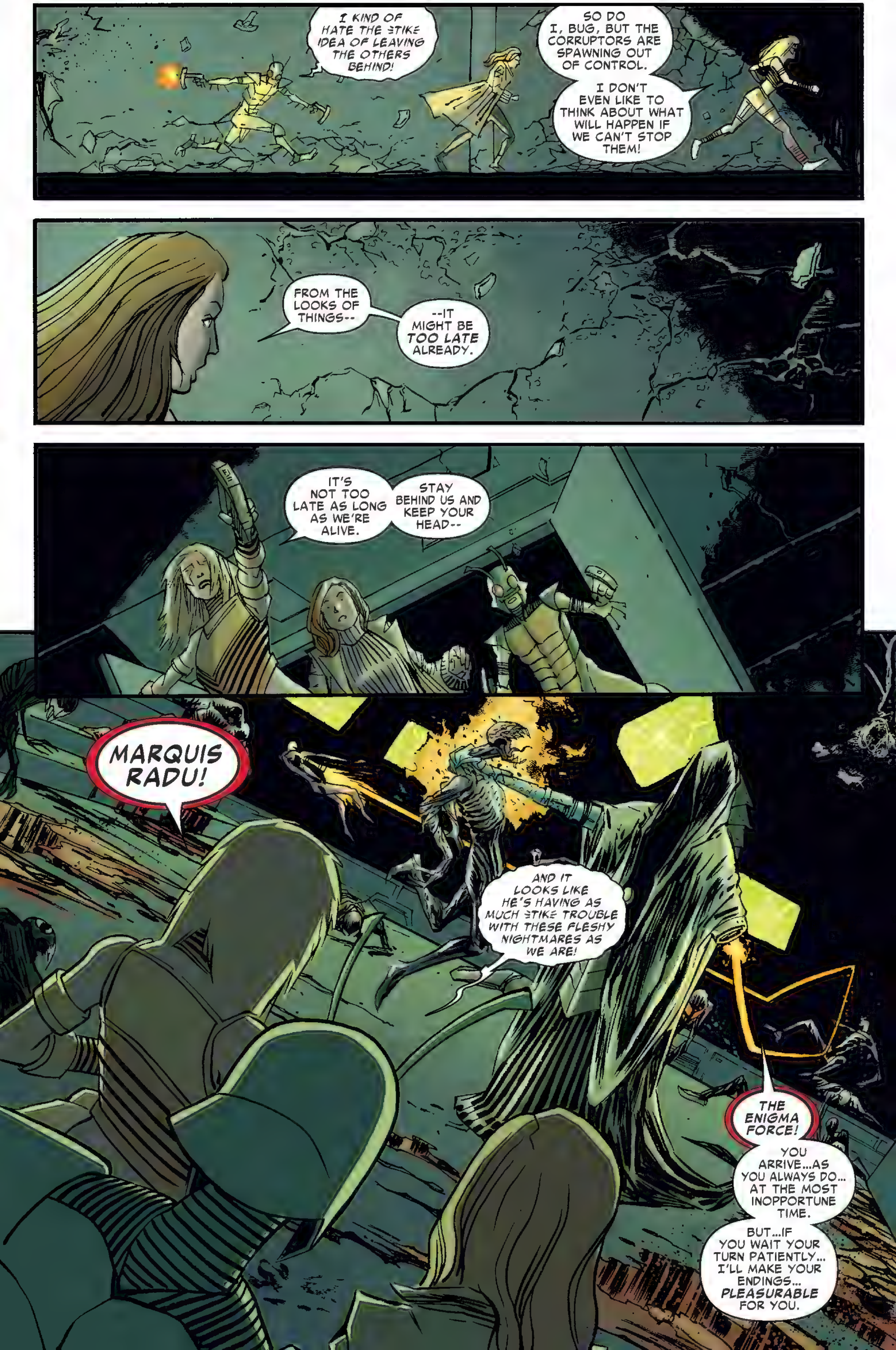

JEALOUS?
FEELING... INEPT...IMPOTENT... BECAUSE OUR UGLY LITTLE BABIES WOULD RATHER LISTEN TO ME THAN YOU?
HE'S RIGHT. I KNOW IT.
I CAN HEAR HYBRIDS IN MY HEAD...DISTANT MAYBE...BUT THEY'RE WITH ME...
...A THOUSAND SCREAMING VOICES...
BUT I CAN'T SCREAM BACK... OR AT LEAST THEY WON'T LISTEN...
CARNAGE IS PURE...
...UNTAINTED BY SCIENTIFIC TAMPERING...
...UNHINDERED BY SO MUCH AS A SHRED OF HUMANITY...
SEEING YOU LIKE THIS...A SLAVE TO THE FAT CATS AND THE PIGS...
...IT MAKES ME WANT TO THROW UP WHOEVER I HAD FOR LUNCH.
MY SYMBIOTE, THOUGH, IS CRIPPLED.
AND IF I WANT TO STOP CARNAGE...THEN I--FLASH THOMPSON--HAVE TO THINK LIKE CARNAGE.
I HAVE TO THINK MEAN.

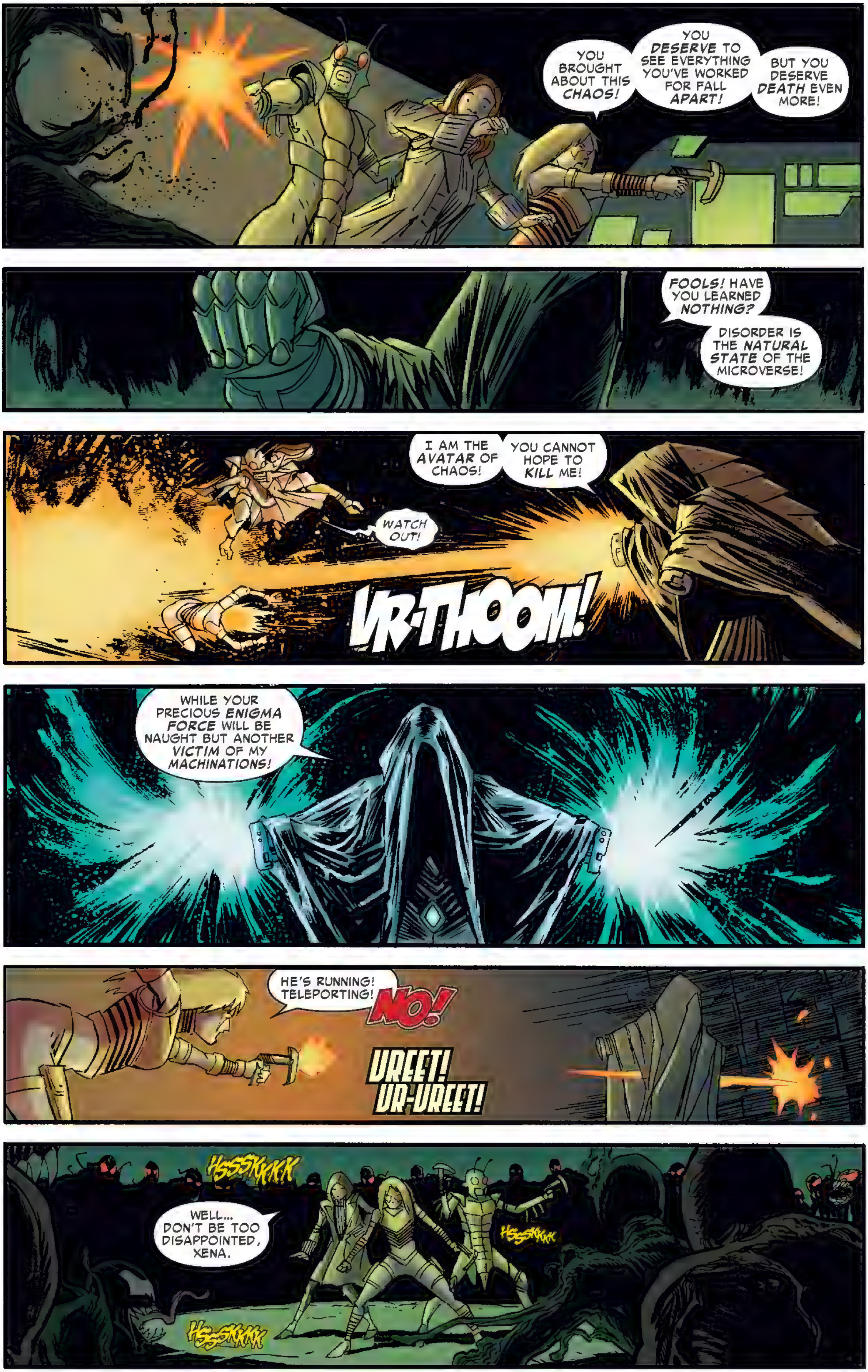

I CAN DO MEAN.
SQUEEEEEEEE
SKRRRGGGLKKK!
WANTED TO PULL MY PUNCH...AT THE LAST SECOND.
ALMOST FLINCHED.
ALMOST.
CAME HERE TO TAKE DOWN A LUNATIC, AND THAT'S WHAT I--
SQUUUEEEE-EH-HEH-HEH-HEH

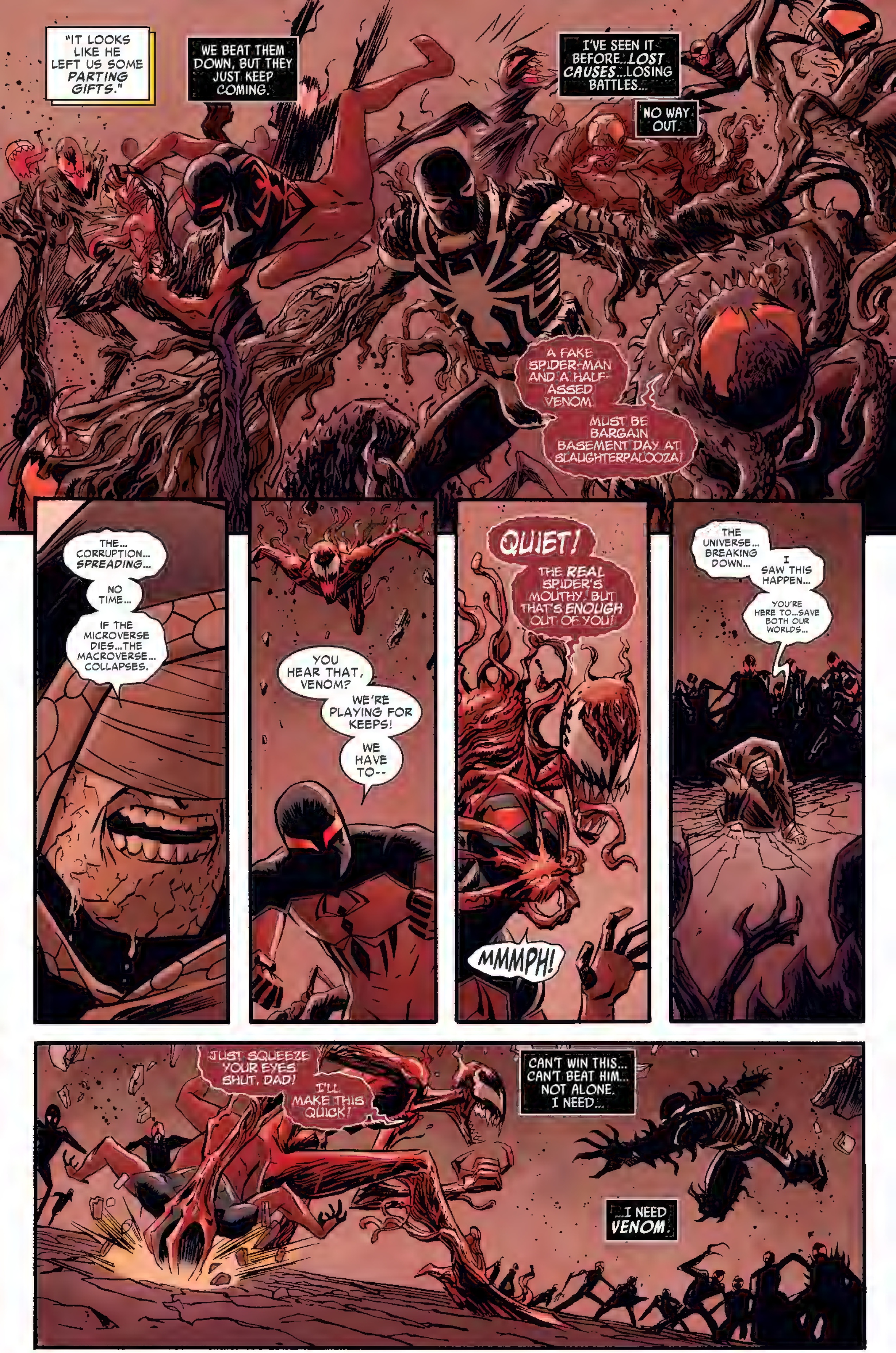

AW, HELL NO--
NICE TRY...
...ESPECIALLY FOR A FRAT BOY WHO'S ESSENTIALLY WEARING A CORPSE LIKE A HALLOWEEN COSTUME!
I ALWAYS HAD A YEN TO KILL MY DADDY.
EVEN IF I HADN'T PICKED THOSE DESIRES UP FROM MY HOST... IT'S PART OF MY SYMBIOTE HERITAGE.
BUT NOW...SEEING HOW HARD YOU'RE TRYING...SEEING HOW PATHETIC YOU ARE...
SLLIKKK!
REAAGGH!
NOW... THIS IS A MERCY KILLING.
GUESS I'M GETTING SOFT IN MY OLD AGE.
HHT!
CHGGNK!
HE'S TRIPPING ON A SUDDEN SURGE OF ADRENALINE. I CAN SENSE IT. I CAN SMELL IT.
NOT SURE I CAN PUT HIM DOWN...NOT WHEN HE'S 'ROIDED UP LIKE THIS...
CARNAGE!
HNH?

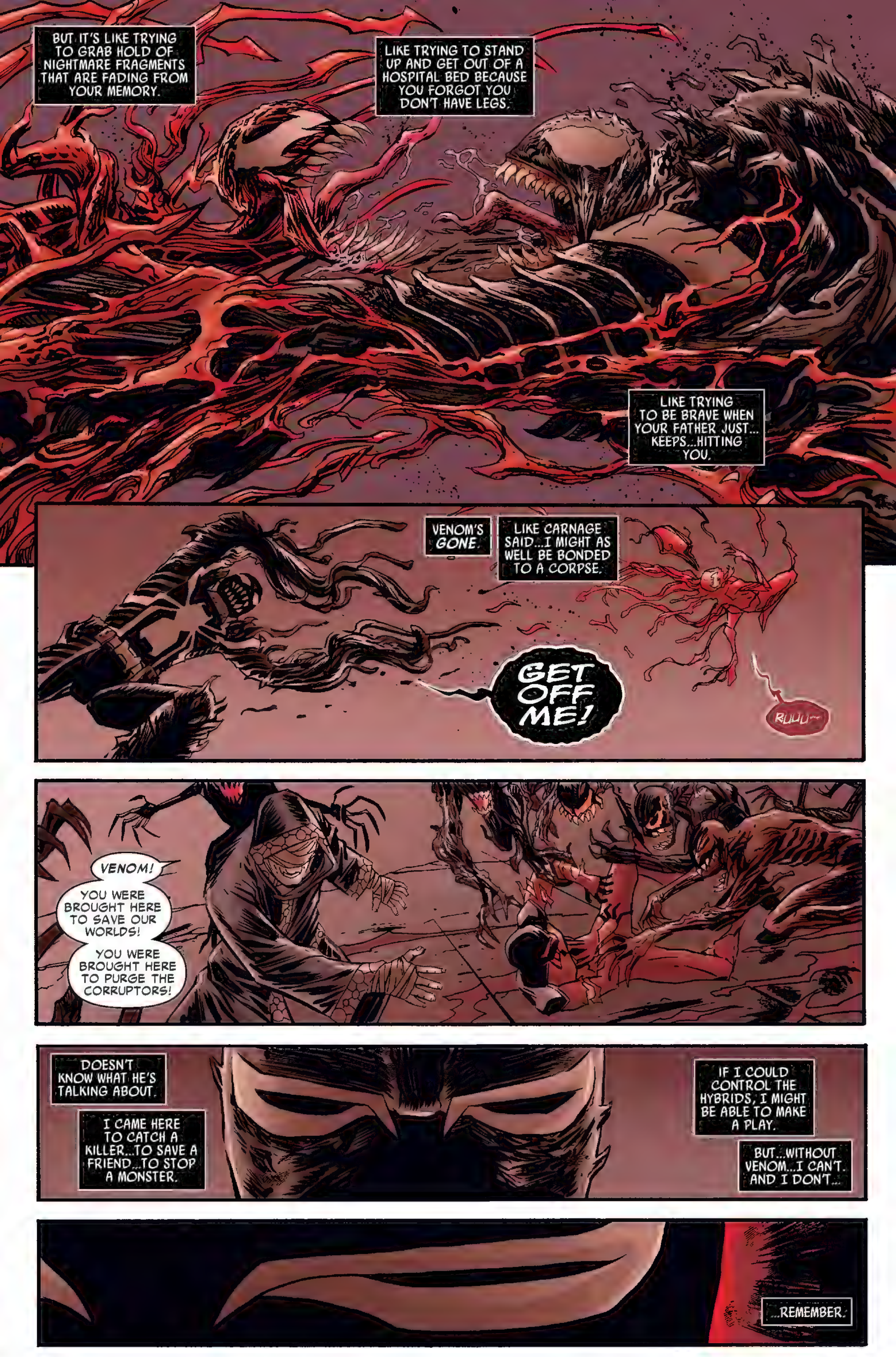

LET'S GO.
ROUND THREE.
HRRRK!
GGHNNK!
SCARLET SPIDER. THE SPIDER-MAN FROM TEXAS.
DON'T LIKE HIM MUCH...BUT I'M GLAD TO SEE HIM.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
YOU'RE LUCKY I'M NOT.
CHEAP SHOT, SPIDER.
BUT IF YOU WANNA PLAY DIRTY I'M YOUR HUCKLEBERRY.
THE CORRUPTOR GROWS STRONGER...
...FEEDING ON THE ESSENCE OF THE MICROVERSE...
HSSSSSSS
HSSSSSSS
...AND SOON HE'LL BRING BOTH OF OUR WORLDS CRASHING DOWN AROUND HIM.
WHO'S YOUR FRIEND, SPIDER?
VENOM, MEET THE REDEEMER.
HE'S A WEALTH OF GOOD NEWS...

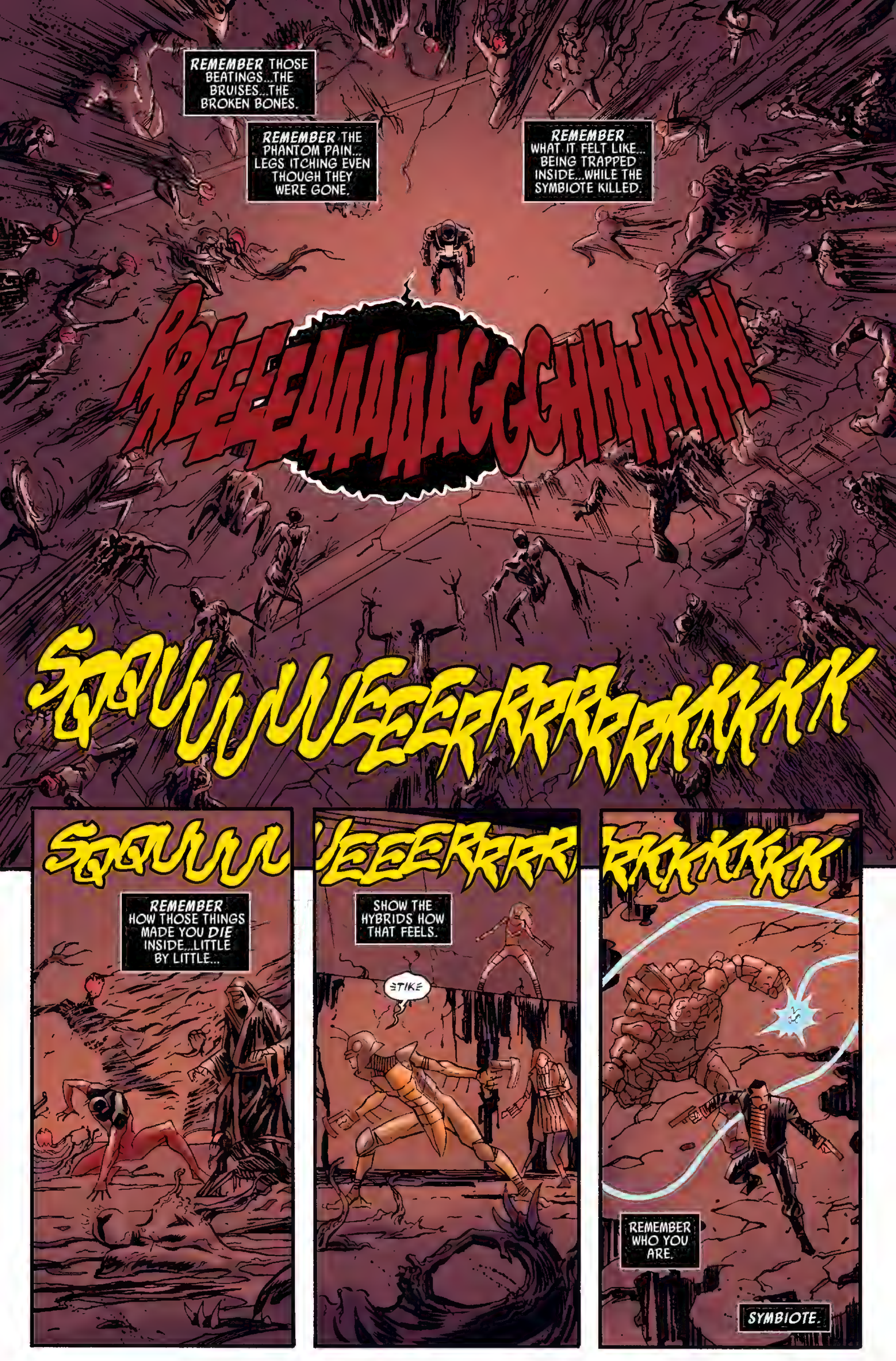

"...AND THIS IS THE KIND OF NEWS THAT SPREADS FAST!"
ENIGMA FORCE! PUNCH A HOLE THROUGH THESE THINGS!
WE HAVE TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THIS INFESTATION... AND DESTROY IT!
THAT'S TOO BAD! THESE ETIKE BEASTIES SEEM TO LIKE THE TASTE OF MARQUIS RADU'S FOOT SOLDIERS!
THAT MAY BE, BUG, BUT THEY'LL LAY WASTE TO THE LIFE FORCE THAT HOLDS OUR WORLD TOGETHER!
SSLASREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET THEM TOUCH YOU!
THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE, LITTLE FLARE...
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOUR BODY IS YOUR ONLY WEAPON--
AGGH!
IT... IT BURNS!
KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU, QUARK!
WE'VE FACED WORSE THAN THIS.
WHEN WAS THAT EXACTLY, PRINCESS?
MARI--AN OPENING!
FIND THE SOURCE! WE'LL KEEP THESE MONSTERS OFF YOU AS LONG AS WE CAN!
ON IT.

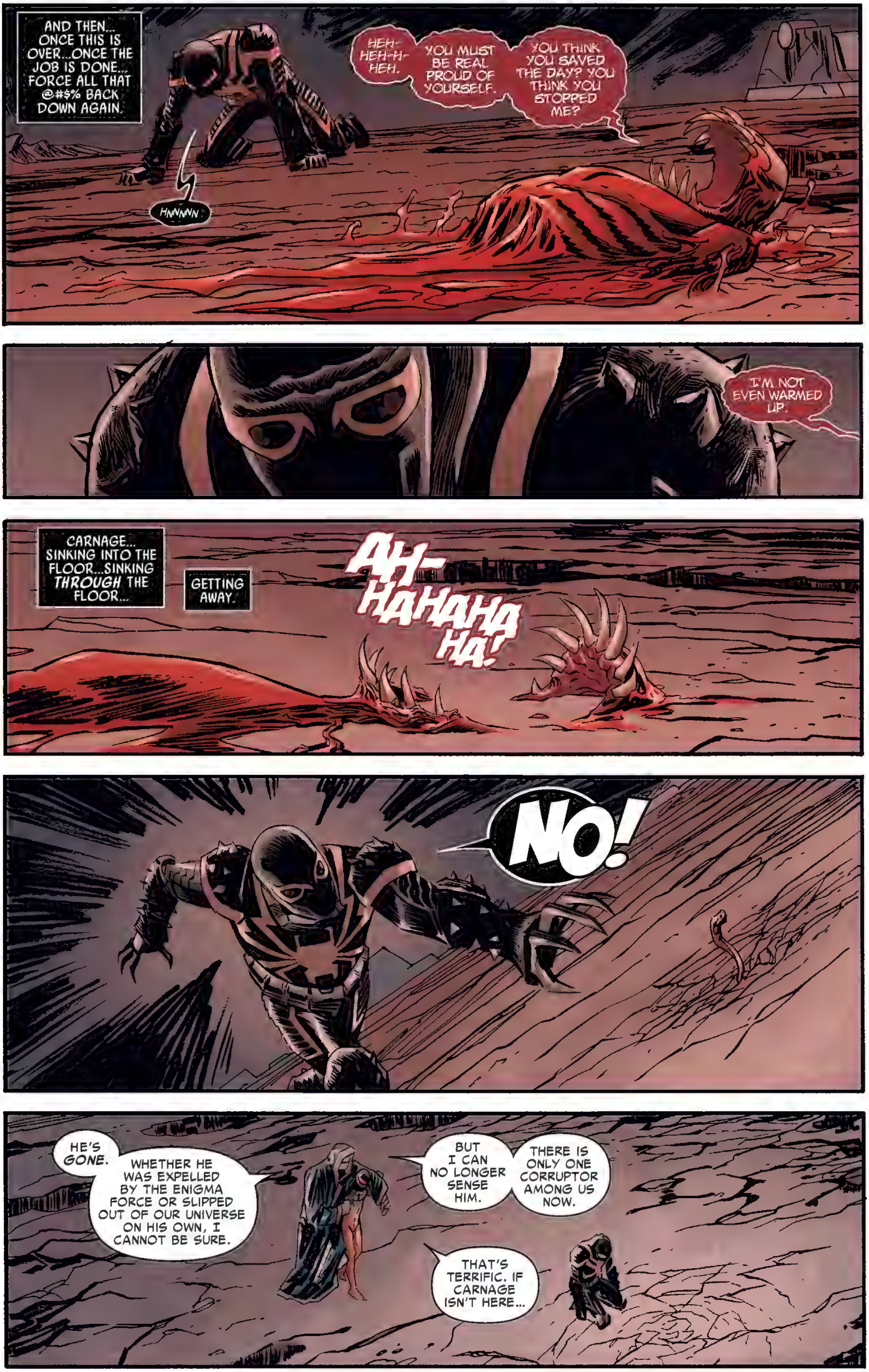

I KIND OF HATE THE ƎTIKE IDEA OF LEAVING THE OTHERS BEHIND!
SO DO I, BUG, BUT THE CORRUPTORS ARE SPAWNING OUT OF CONTROL.
I DON'T EVEN LIKE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE CAN'T STOP THEM!
FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS--
--IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE ALREADY.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE AS LONG AS WE'RE ALIVE.
STAY BEHIND US AND KEEP YOUR HEAD--
MARQUIS RADU!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING AS MUCH ƎTIKE TROUBLE WITH THESE FLESHY NIGHTMARES AS WE ARE!
THE ENIGMA FORCE!
YOU ARRIVE...AS YOU ALWAYS DO... AT THE MOST INOPPORTUNE TIME.
BUT...IF YOU WAIT YOUR TURN PATIENTLY... I'LL MAKE YOUR ENDINGS... PLEASURABLE FOR YOU.

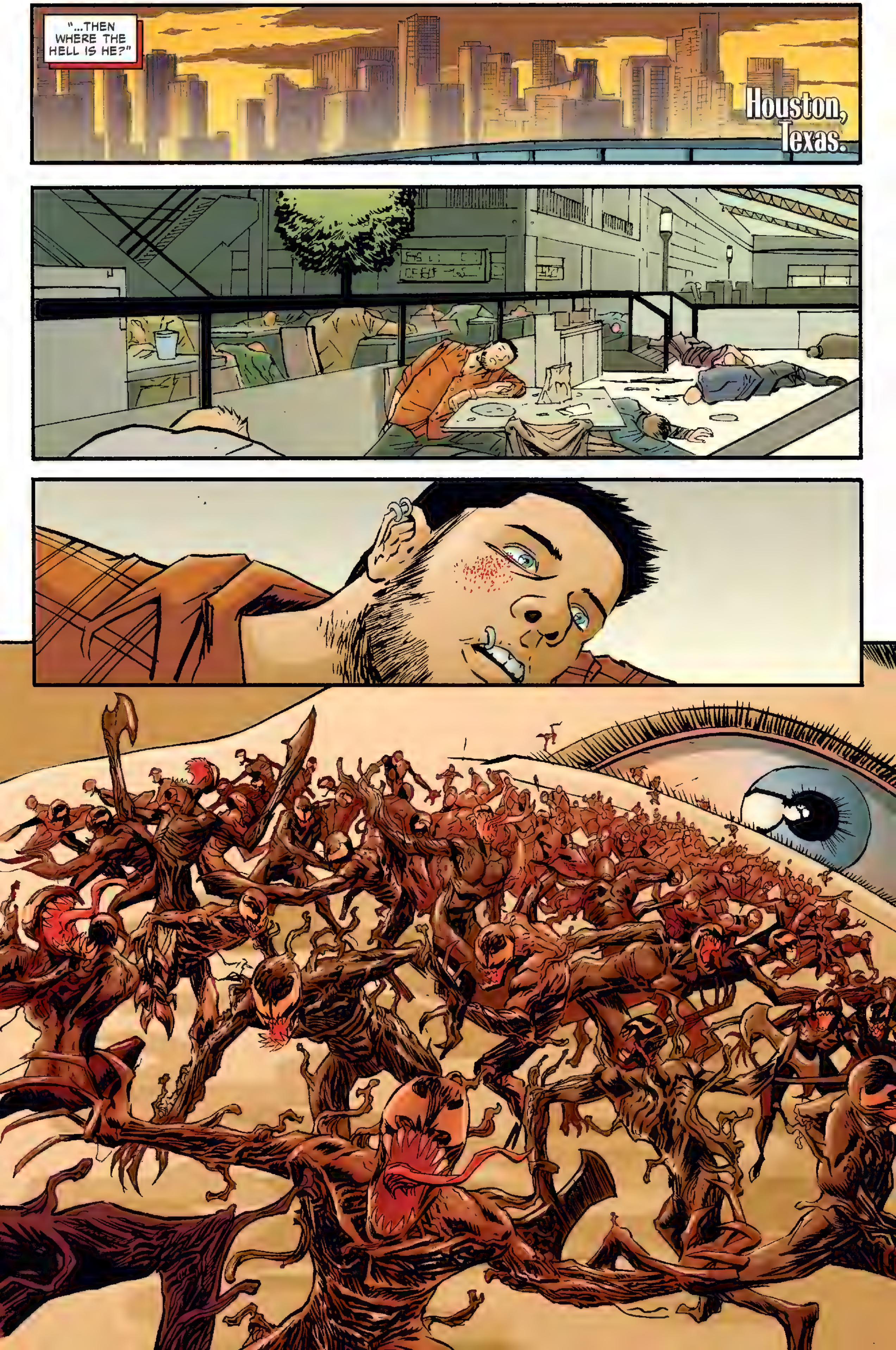

YOU BROUGHT ABOUT THIS *CHAOS!*
YOU *DESERVE* TO SEE EVERYTHING YOU'VE WORKED FOR FALL *APART!*
BUT YOU DESERVE *DEATH* EVEN MORE!
FOOLS! HAVE YOU LEARNED *NOTHING?*
DISORDER IS THE *NATURAL STATE* OF THE MICROVERSE!
I AM THE *AVATAR* OF CHAOS!
YOU CANNOT HOPE TO *KILL* ME!
WATCH OUT!
VR-THOOM!
WHILE YOUR PRECIOUS *ENIGMA FORCE* WILL BE NAUGHT BUT ANOTHER *VICTIM* OF MY *MACHINATIONS!*
HE'S RUNNING! TELEPORTING!
NO!
VREET! VR-VREET!
HSSSKKKK
WELL... DON'T BE TOO DISAPPOINTED, XENA.
HSSSKKKK
HSSSKKKK


"IT LOOKS LIKE HE LEFT US SOME *PARTING GIFTS*."
WE BEAT THEM DOWN, BUT THEY JUST KEEP COMING.
I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE...*LOST CAUSES*...LOSING BATTLES...
NO WAY OUT.
A FAKE SPIDER-MAN AND A HALF-ASSED VENOM...
MUST BE BARGAIN BASEMENT DAY AT SLAUGHTERPALOOZA!
THE... CORRUPTION... *SPREADING*...
NO TIME...
IF THE MICROVERSE DIES...THE MACROVERSE... COLLAPSES.
YOU HEAR THAT, VENOM?
WE'RE PLAYING FOR KEEPS!
WE HAVE TO--
QUIET!
THE *REAL* SPIDER'S MOUTHY, BUT THAT'S *ENOUGH* OUT OF YOU!
MMMPH!
THE UNIVERSE... BREAKING DOWN...
I SAW THIS HAPPEN...
YOU'RE HERE TO...SAVE BOTH OUR WORLDS...
JUST SQUEEZE YOUR EYES SHUT, DAD!
I'LL MAKE THIS QUICK!
CAN'T WIN THIS... CAN'T BEAT HIM... NOT ALONE. I NEED...
...I NEED *VENOM*.


BUT IT'S LIKE TRYING TO GRAB HOLD OF NIGHTMARE FRAGMENTS THAT ARE FADING FROM YOUR MEMORY.
LIKE TRYING TO STAND UP AND GET OUT OF A HOSPITAL BED BECAUSE YOU FORGOT YOU DON'T HAVE LEGS.
LIKE TRYING TO BE BRAVE WHEN YOUR FATHER JUST... KEEPS...HITTING YOU.
VENOM'S *GONE*.
LIKE CARNAGE SAID...I MIGHT AS WELL BE BONDED TO A CORPSE.
GET OFF ME!
RUUU--
VENOM!
YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE TO SAVE OUR WORLDS!
YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE TO PURGE THE CORRUPTORS!
DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT.
I CAME HERE TO CATCH A KILLER...TO SAVE A FRIEND...TO STOP A MONSTER.
IF I COULD CONTROL THE HYBRIDS, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE A PLAY.
BUT...WITHOUT VENOM...I CAN'T. AND I DON'T...
...REMEMBER.


REMEMBER THOSE BEATINGS...THE BRUISES...THE BROKEN BONES.
REMEMBER THE PHANTOM PAIN... LEGS ITCHING EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE GONE.
REMEMBER WHAT IT FELT LIKE... BEING TRAPPED INSIDE...WHILE THE SYMBIOTE KILLED.
RREEEAAAAAGGHHHHHH!
SQQUUUUEEERRRRRRKKKKK
SQQUUUUEEERRRRRKKKKKK
REMEMBER HOW THOSE THINGS MADE YOU DIE INSIDE...LITTLE BY LITTLE...
SHOW THE HYBRIDS HOW THAT FEELS.
STIK
REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE.
SYMBIOTE.

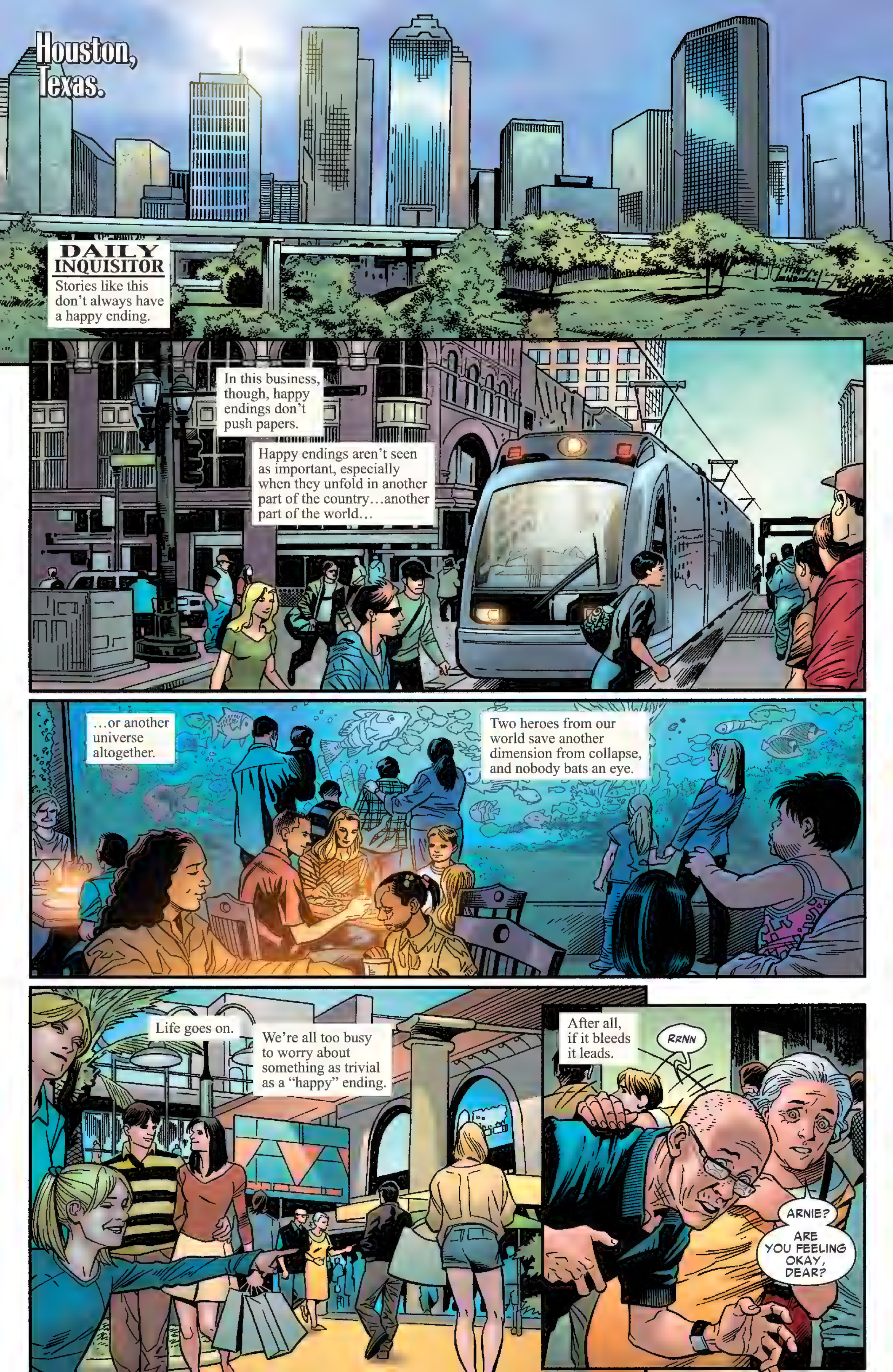

AND THEN... ONCE THIS IS OVER...ONCE THE JOB IS DONE... FORCE ALL THAT @#$% BACK DOWN AGAIN.
HNNNNN
HEH-HEH-H-HEH.
YOU MUST BE REAL PROUD OF YOURSELF.
YOU THINK YOU SAVED THE DAY? YOU THINK YOU STOPPED ME?
I'M NOT EVEN WARMED UP.
CARNAGE... SINKING INTO THE FLOOR...SINKING *THROUGH* THE FLOOR...
GETTING AWAY.
AH-HAHAHAHA HA!
NO!
HE'S *GONE*.
WHETHER HE WAS EXPELLED BY THE ENIGMA FORCE OR SLIPPED OUT OF OUR UNIVERSE ON HIS OWN, I CANNOT BE SURE.
BUT I CAN NO LONGER SENSE HIM.
THERE IS ONLY ONE CORRUPTOR AMONG US NOW.
THAT'S TERRIFIC. IF CARNAGE ISN'T HERE...

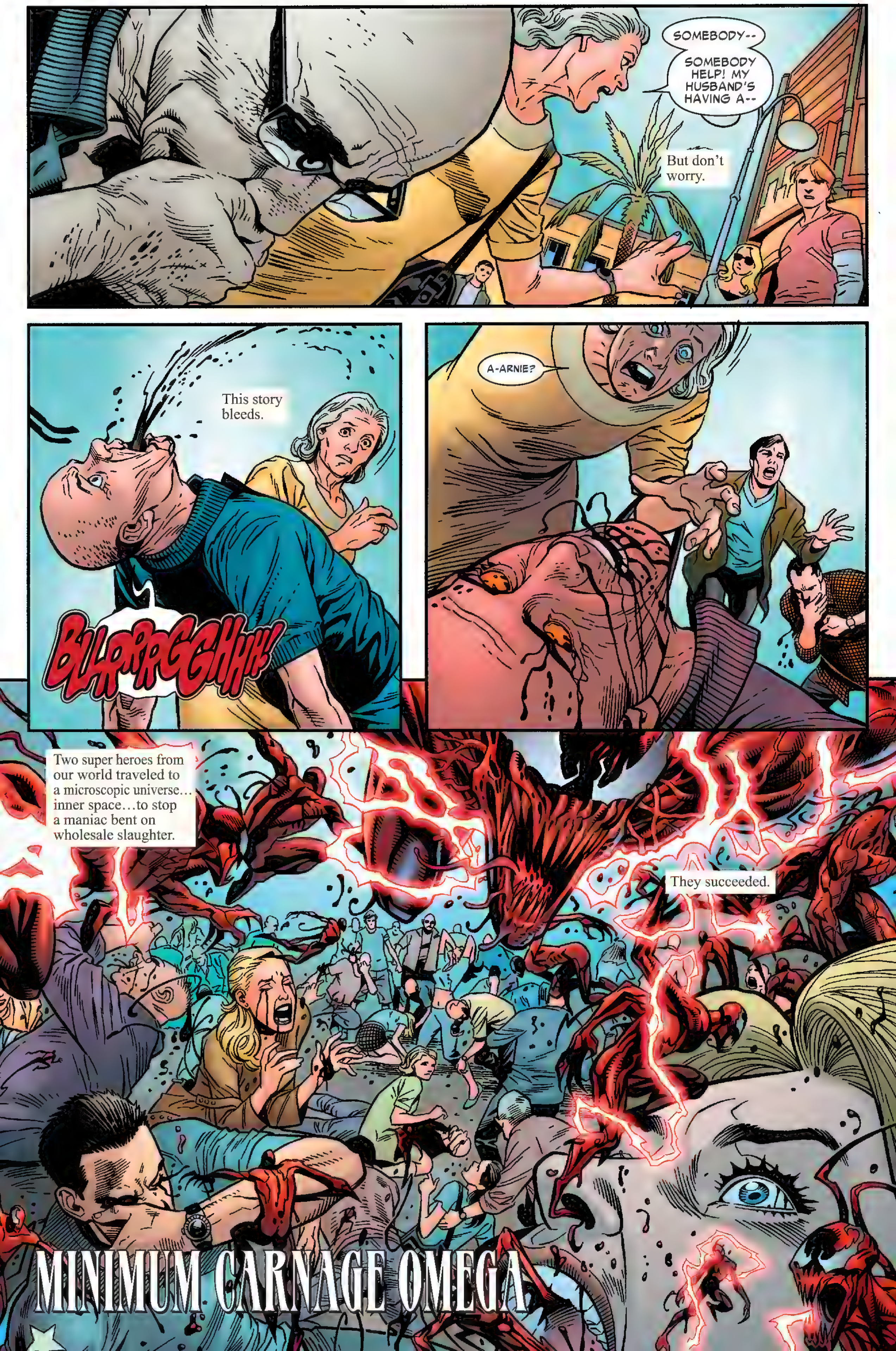

"...THEN WHERE THE HELL IS HE?"
Houston, Texas.

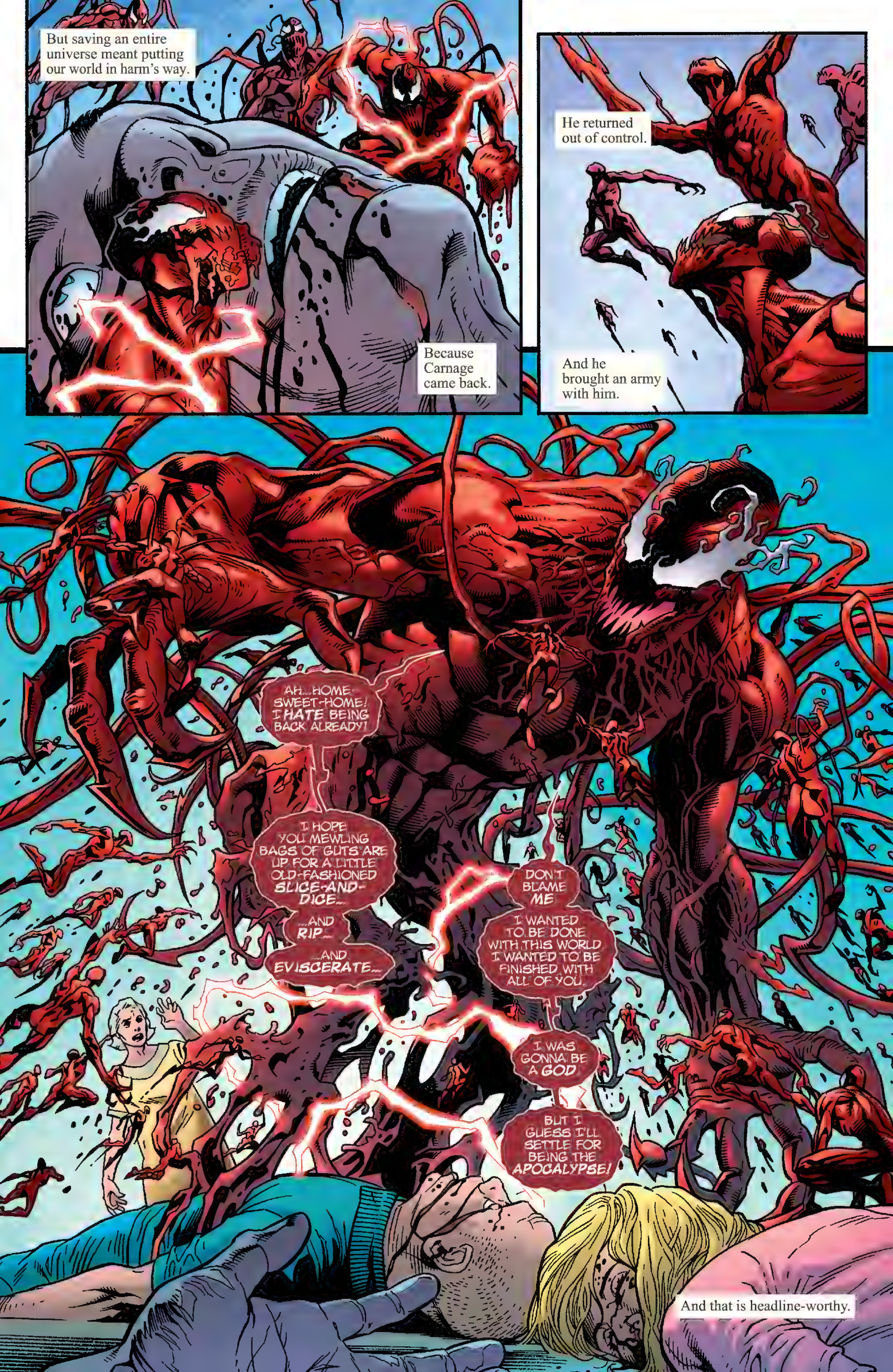
minimum carnage: omega

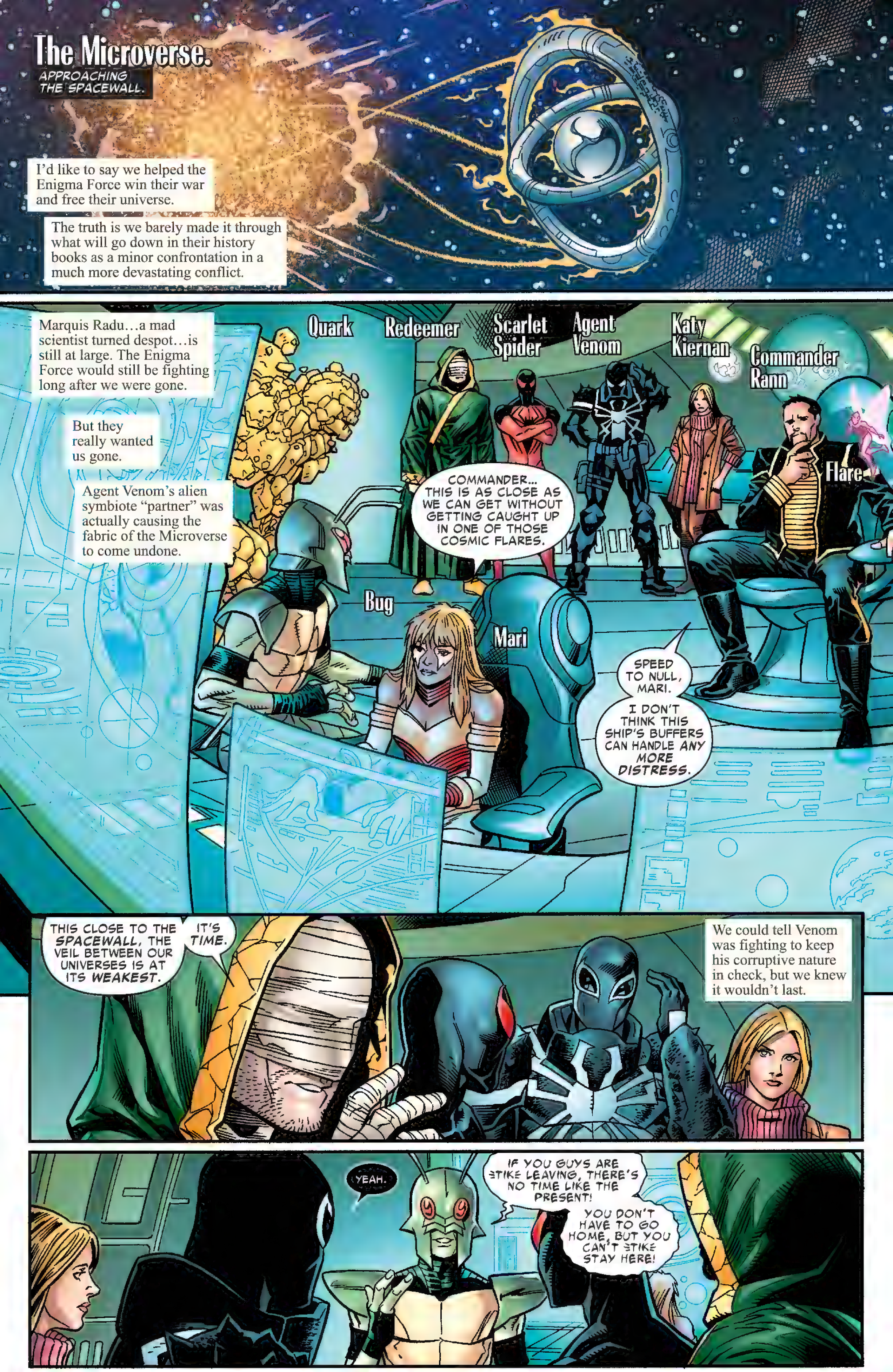
RON LIM 12
OLAZABA

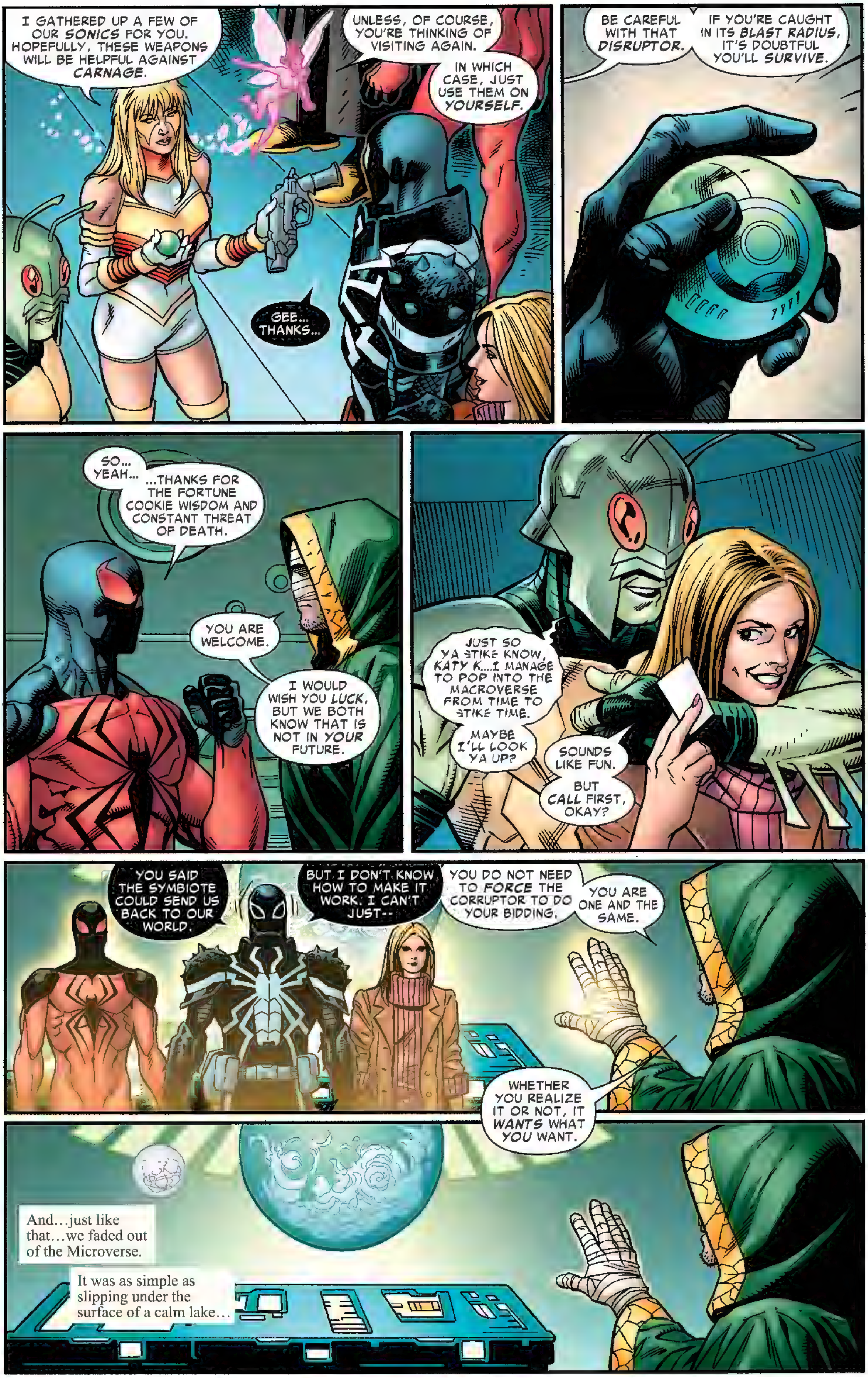
omega variant by
ron lim & chris sotomayor

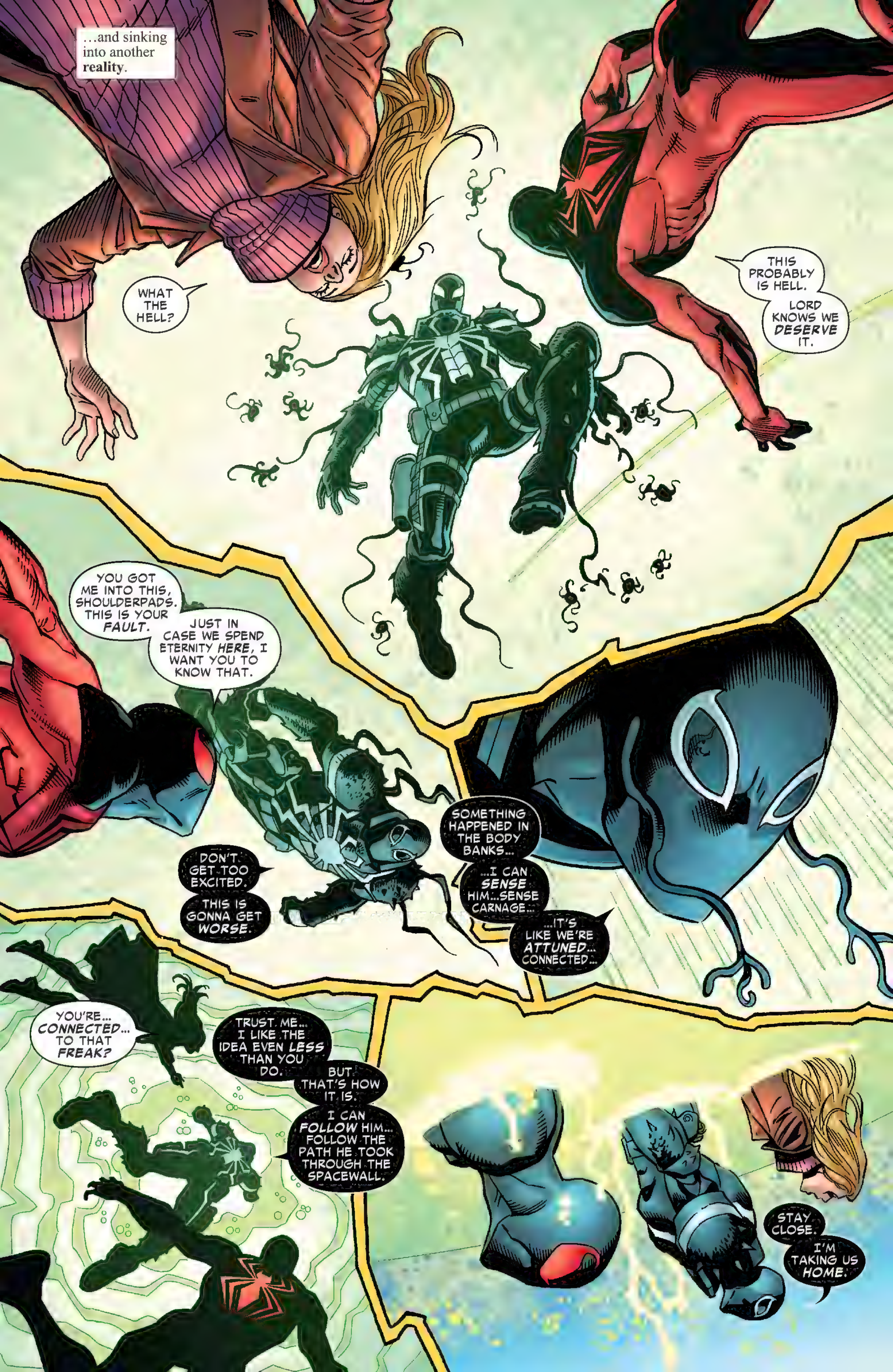

Houston, Texas.
DAILY INQUISITOR
Stories like this don't always have a happy ending.
In this business, though, happy endings don't push papers.
Happy endings aren't seen as important, especially when they unfold in another part of the country…another part of the world…
…or another universe altogether.
Two heroes from our world save another dimension from collapse, and nobody bats an eye.
Life goes on.
We're all too busy to worry about something as trivial as a "happy" ending.
After all, if it bleeds it leads.
RRNN
ARNIE?
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY, DEAR?

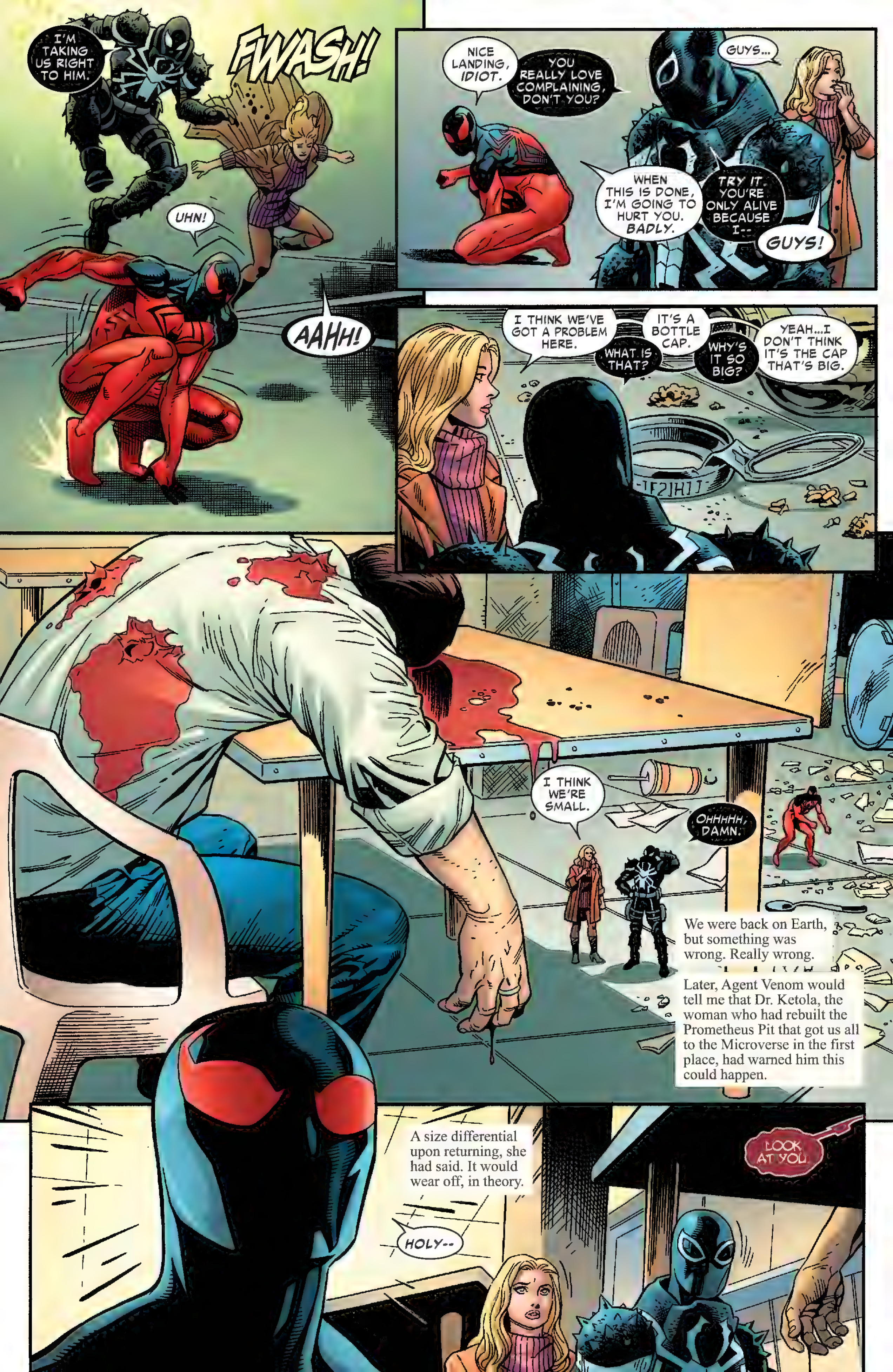

SOMEBODY--
SOMEBODY HELP! MY HUSBAND'S HAVING A--
But don't worry.
This story bleeds.
BLLRRRGGHHH!
A-ARNIE?
Two super heroes from our world traveled to a microscopic universe… inner space…to stop a maniac bent on wholesale slaughter.
They succeeded.
MINIMUM CARNAGE OMEGA


But saving an entire universe meant putting our world in harm's way.
Because Carnage came back.
He returned out of control.
And he brought an army with him.
AH...HOME-SWEET-HOME! I HATE BEING BACK ALREADY!
I HOPE YOU MEWLING BAGS OF GUTS ARE UP FOR A LITTLE OLD-FASHIONED SLICE-AND-DICE...
...AND RIP...
...AND EVISCERATE...
DON'T BLAME ME.
I WANTED TO BE DONE WITH THIS WORLD. I WANTED TO BE FINISHED WITH ALL OF YOU.
I WAS GONNA BE A GOD.
BUT I GUESS I'LL SETTLE FOR BEING THE APOCALYPSE!
And that is headline-worthy.


The Microverse.
APPROACHING THE SPACEWALL.
I'd like to say we helped the Enigma Force win their war and free their universe.
The truth is we barely made it through what will go down in their history books as a minor confrontation in a much more devastating conflict.
Marquis Radu…a mad scientist turned despot…is still at large. The Enigma Force would still be fighting long after we were gone.
But they really wanted us gone.
Agent Venom's alien symbiote "partner" was actually causing the fabric of the Microverse to come undone.
Quark
Redeemer
Scarlet Spider
Agent Venom
Katy Kiernan
Commander Rann
Flare
Bug
Mari
COMMANDER… THIS IS AS CLOSE AS WE CAN GET WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT UP IN ONE OF THOSE COSMIC FLARES.
SPEED TO NULL, MARI.
I DON'T THINK THIS SHIP'S BUFFERS CAN HANDLE ANY MORE DISTRESS.
THIS CLOSE TO THE SPACEWALL, THE VEIL BETWEEN OUR UNIVERSES IS AT ITS WEAKEST.
IT'S TIME.
We could tell Venom was fighting to keep his corruptive nature in check, but we knew it wouldn't last.
YEAH.
IF YOU GUYS ARE LIKE LEAVING, THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO HOME, BUT YOU CAN'T LIKE STAY HERE!


I GATHERED UP A FEW OF OUR *SONICS* FOR YOU. HOPEFULLY, THESE WEAPONS WILL BE HELPFUL AGAINST *CARNAGE*.
UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU'RE THINKING OF VISITING AGAIN.
IN WHICH CASE, JUST USE THEM ON *YOURSELF*.
GEE... THANKS...
BE CAREFUL WITH THAT *DISRUPTOR*.
IF YOU'RE CAUGHT IN ITS *BLAST RADIUS*, IT'S DOUBTFUL YOU'LL *SURVIVE*.
SO... YEAH...
...THANKS FOR THE FORTUNE COOKIE WISDOM AND CONSTANT THREAT OF DEATH.
YOU ARE WELCOME.
I WOULD WISH YOU *LUCK*, BUT WE BOTH KNOW THAT IS NOT IN *YOUR* FUTURE.
JUST SO YA ≡TIK≡ KNOW, *KATY K*....I MANAGE TO POP INTO THE MACROVERSE FROM TIME TO ≡TIK≡ TIME.
MAYBE I'LL LOOK YA UP?
SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
BUT *CALL* FIRST, OKAY?
YOU SAID THE SYMBIOTE COULD SEND US BACK TO OUR WORLD.
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT WORK. I CAN'T JUST--
YOU DO NOT NEED TO *FORCE* THE CORRUPTOR TO DO YOUR BIDDING.
YOU ARE ONE AND THE SAME.
WHETHER YOU REALIZE IT OR NOT, IT *WANTS* WHAT *YOU* WANT.
And…just like that…we faded out of the Microverse.
It was as simple as slipping under the surface of a calm lake…

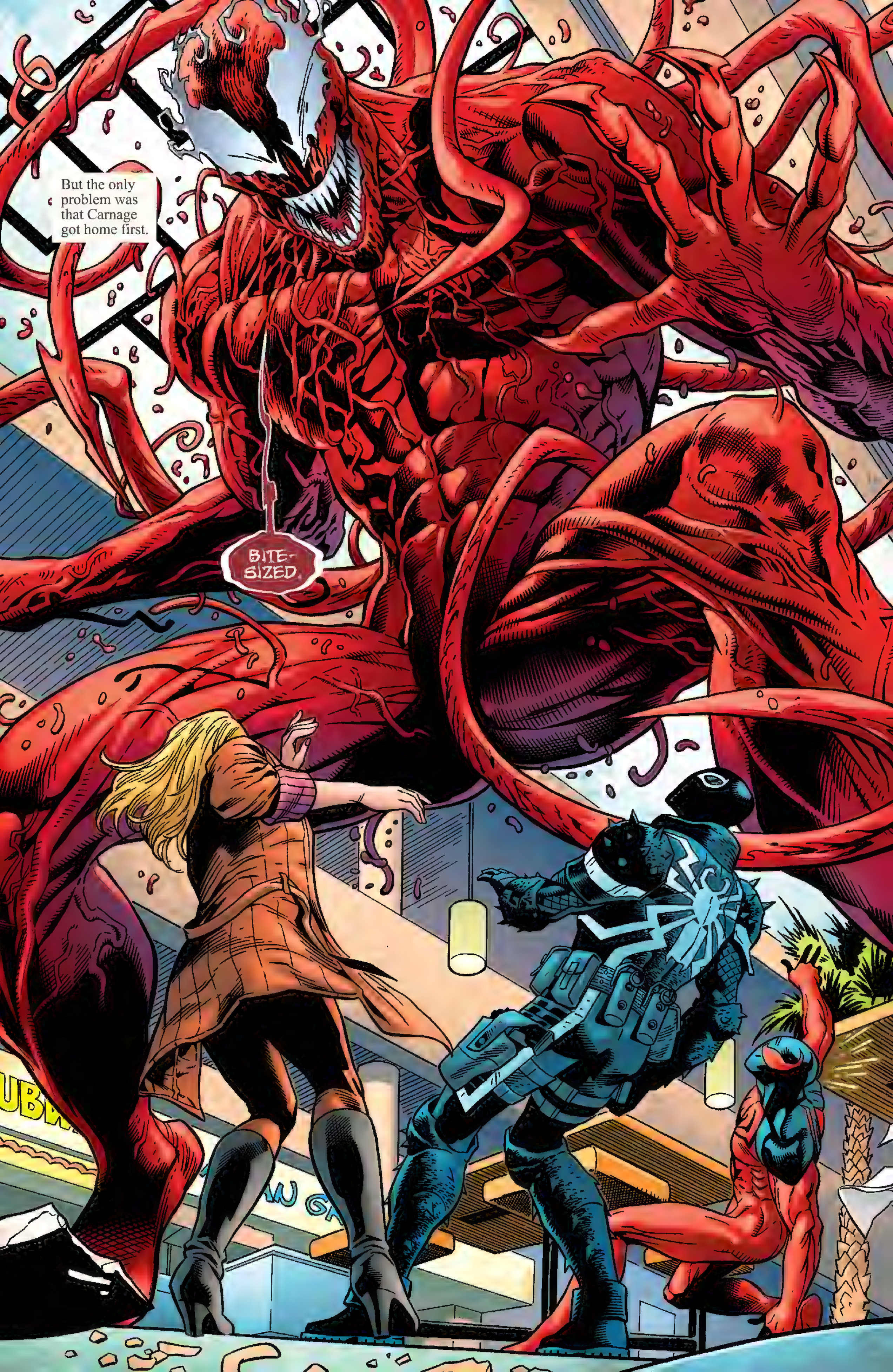

…and sinking into another **reality**.
WHAT THE HELL?
THIS PROBABLY IS HELL.
LORD KNOWS WE *DESERVE* IT.
YOU GOT ME INTO THIS, SHOULDERPADS. THIS IS YOUR *FAULT*.
JUST IN CASE WE SPEND ETERNITY *HERE*, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT.
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED.
THIS IS GONNA GET *WORSE*.
SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THE BODY BANKS...
...I CAN *SENSE* HIM...SENSE CARNAGE...
...IT'S LIKE WE'RE *ATTUNED*... CONNECTED...
YOU'RE... *CONNECTED*... TO THAT *FREAK?*
TRUST ME... I LIKE THE IDEA EVEN *LESS* THAN YOU DO.
BUT THAT'S HOW IT IS.
I CAN *FOLLOW* HIM... FOLLOW THE PATH HE TOOK THROUGH THE SPACEWALL.
STAY CLOSE.
I'M TAKING US *HOME*.

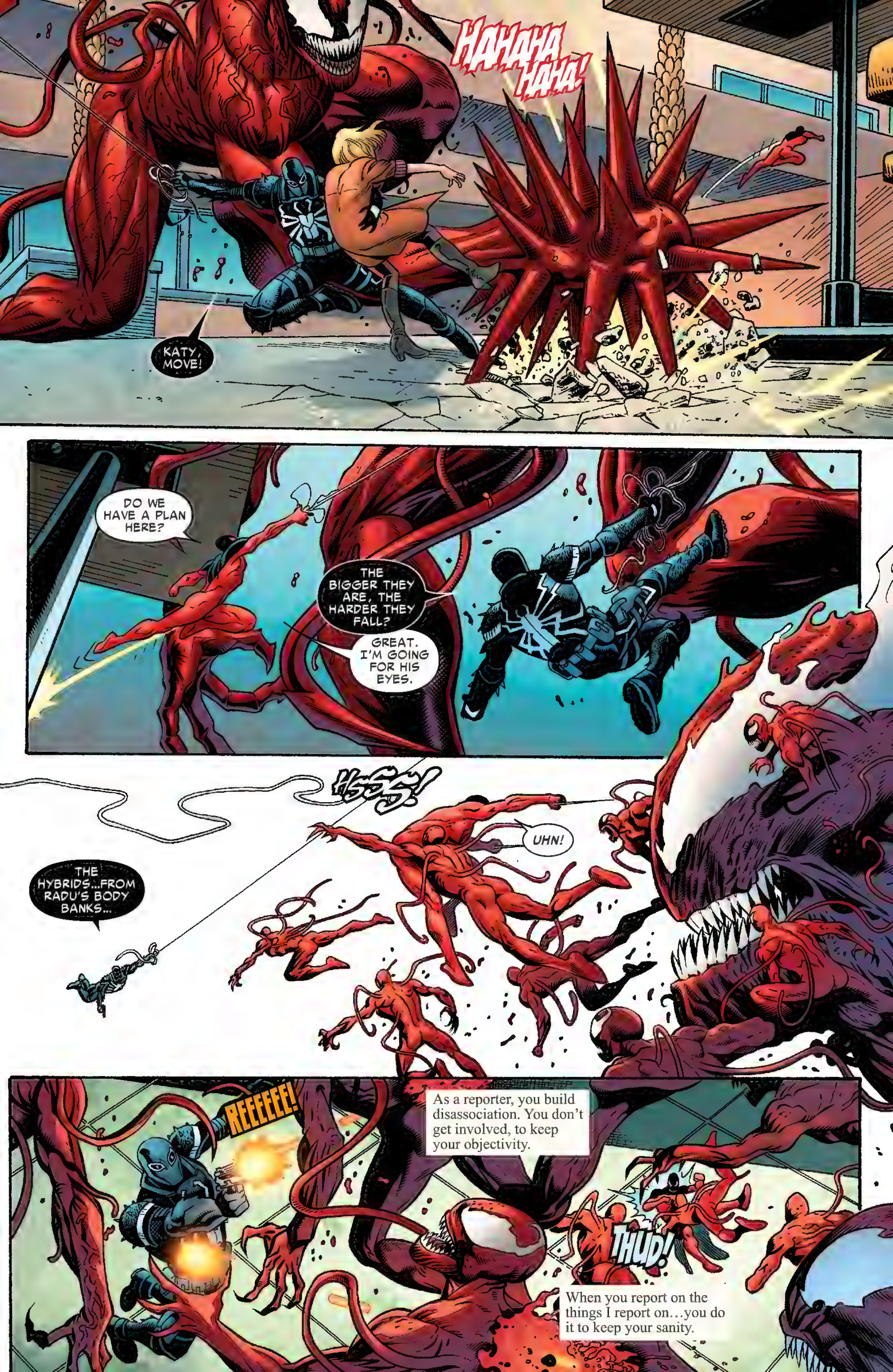

I'M TAKING US RIGHT TO HIM.
FWASH!
UHN!
AAHH!
NICE LANDING, IDIOT.
YOU REALLY LOVE COMPLAINING, DON'T YOU?
GUYS...
WHEN THIS IS DONE, I'M GOING TO HURT YOU. BADLY.
TRY IT. YOU'RE ONLY ALIVE BECAUSE I--
GUYS!
I THINK WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM HERE.
WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S A BOTTLE CAP.
WHY'S IT SO BIG?
YEAH...I DON'T THINK IT'S THE CAP THAT'S BIG.
I THINK WE'RE SMALL.
OHHHHH, DAMN.
HOLY--
LOOK AT YOU

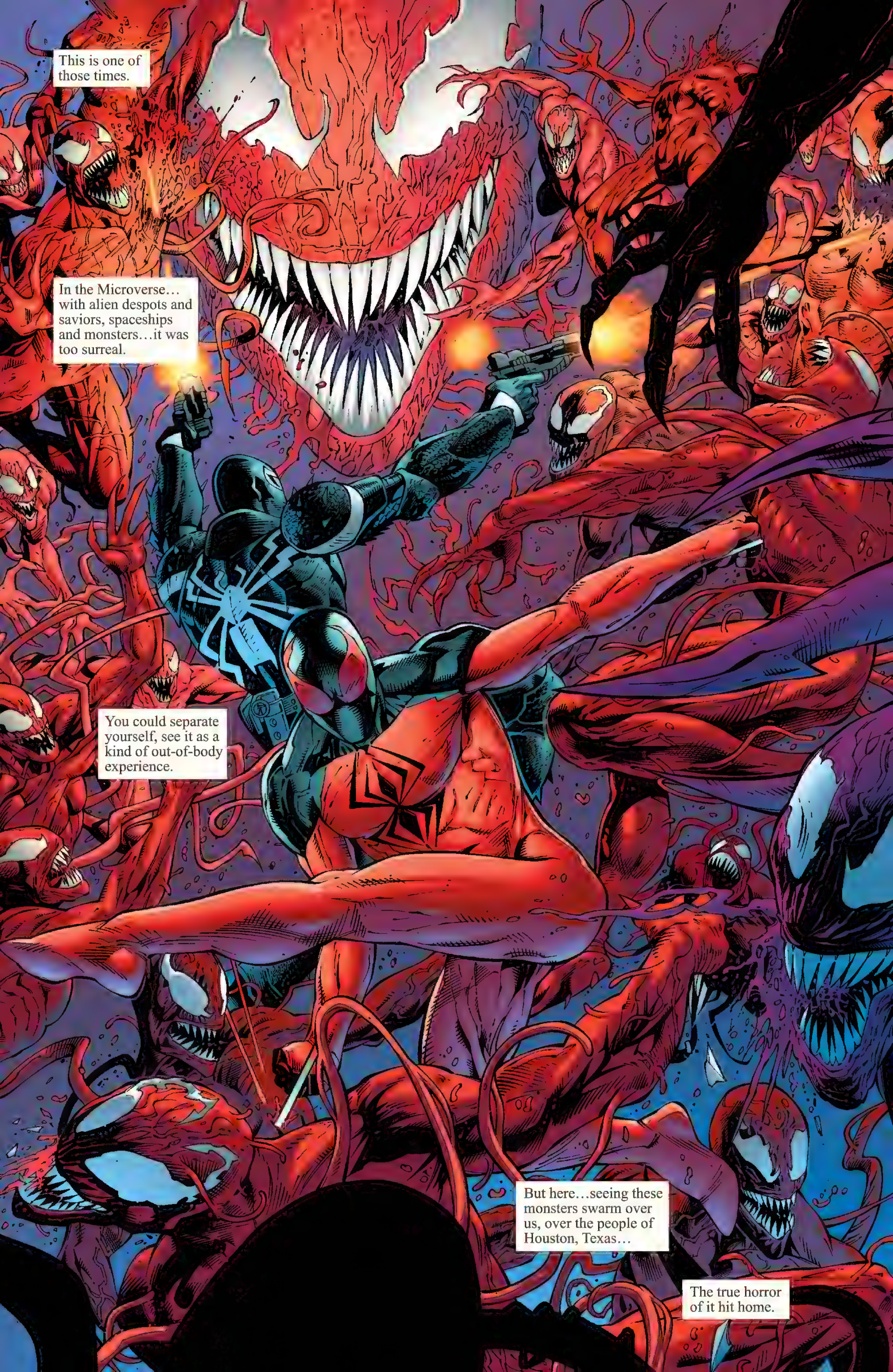
We were back on Earth, but something was wrong. Really wrong.

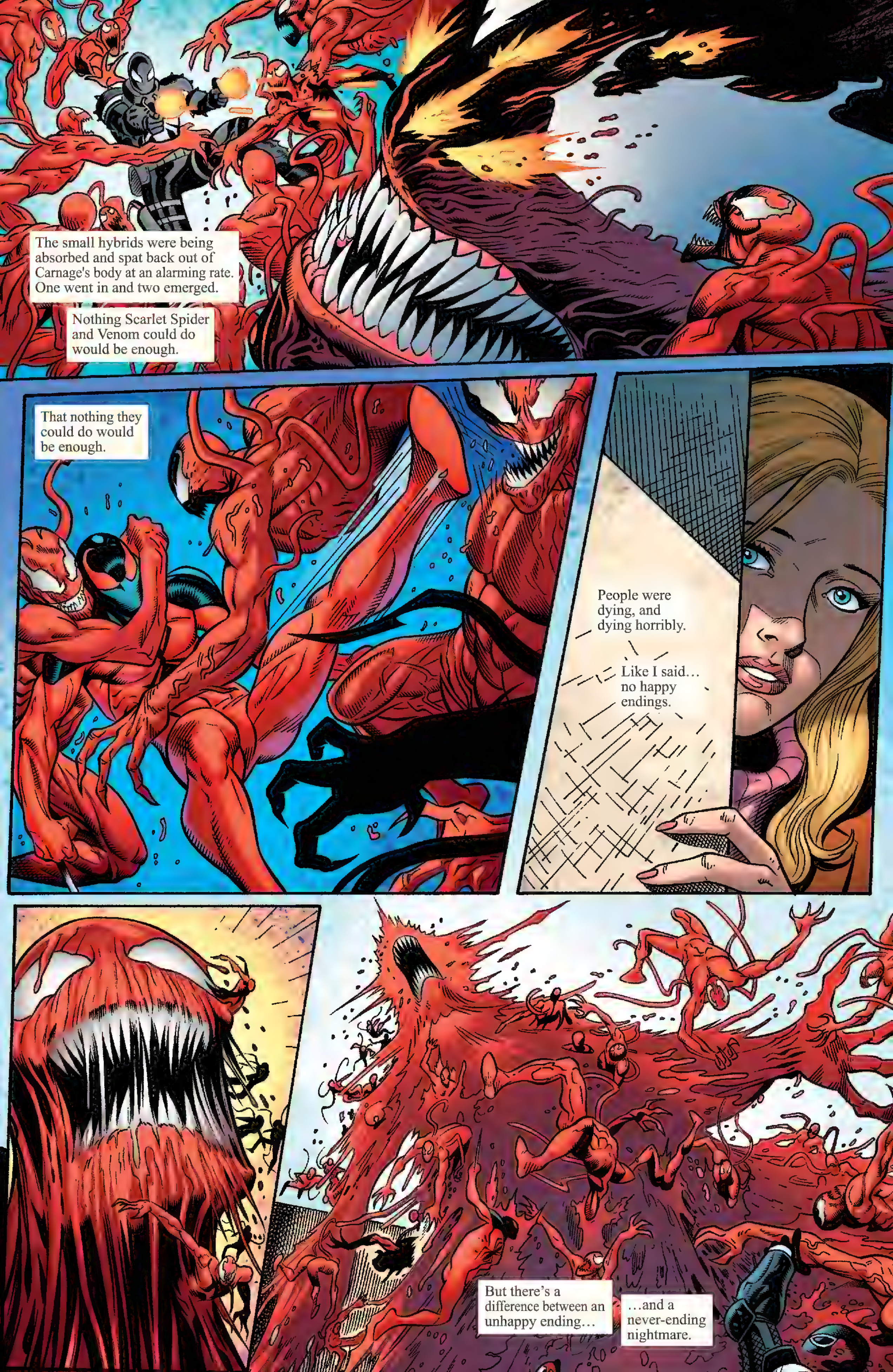
Later, Agent Venom would tell me that Dr. Ketola, the woman who had rebuilt the Prometheus Pit that got us all to the Microverse in the first place, had warned him this could happen.

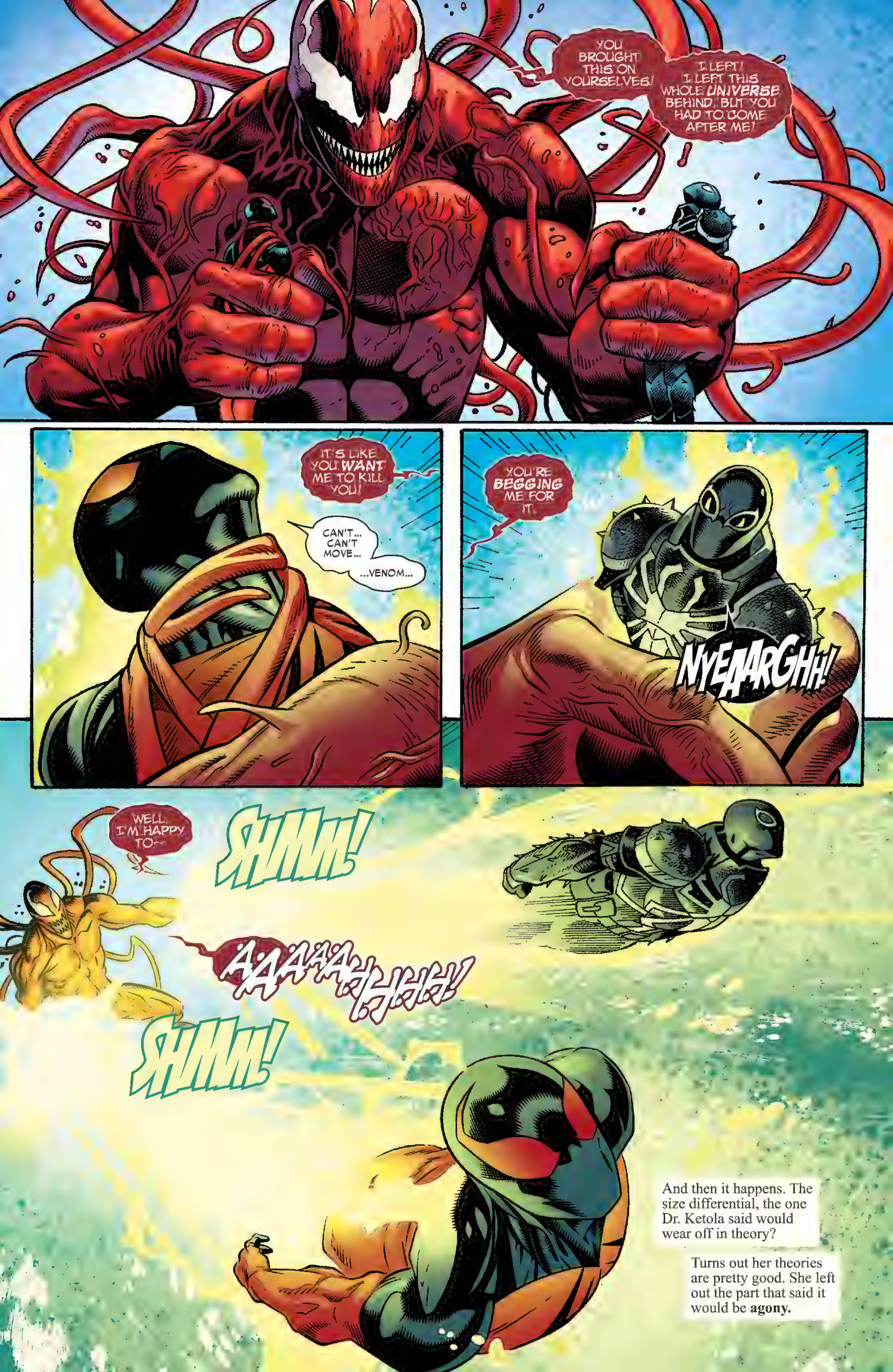
A size differential upon returning, she had said. It would wear off, in theory.

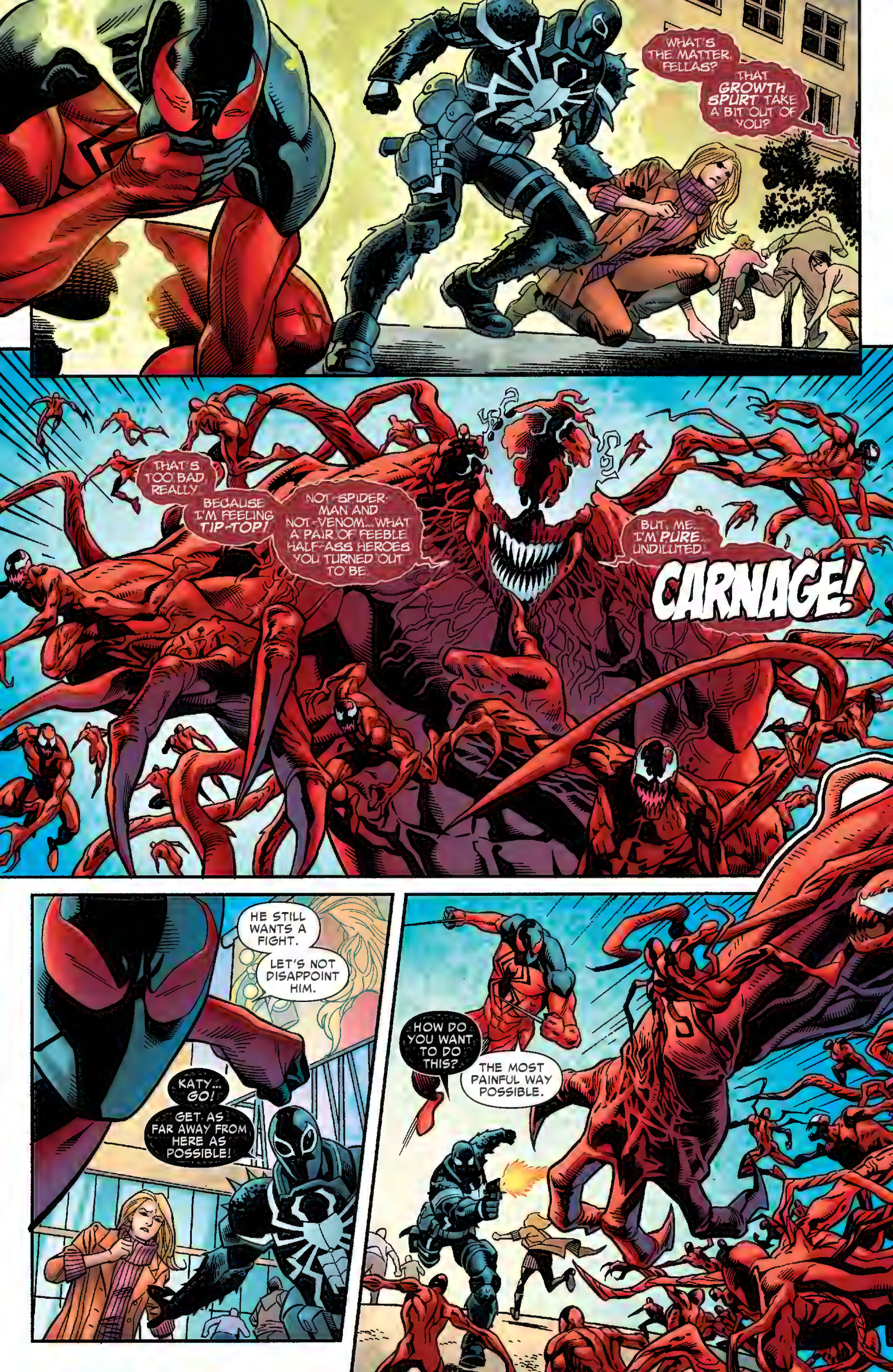

But the only problem was that Carnage got home first.
BITE-SIZED.

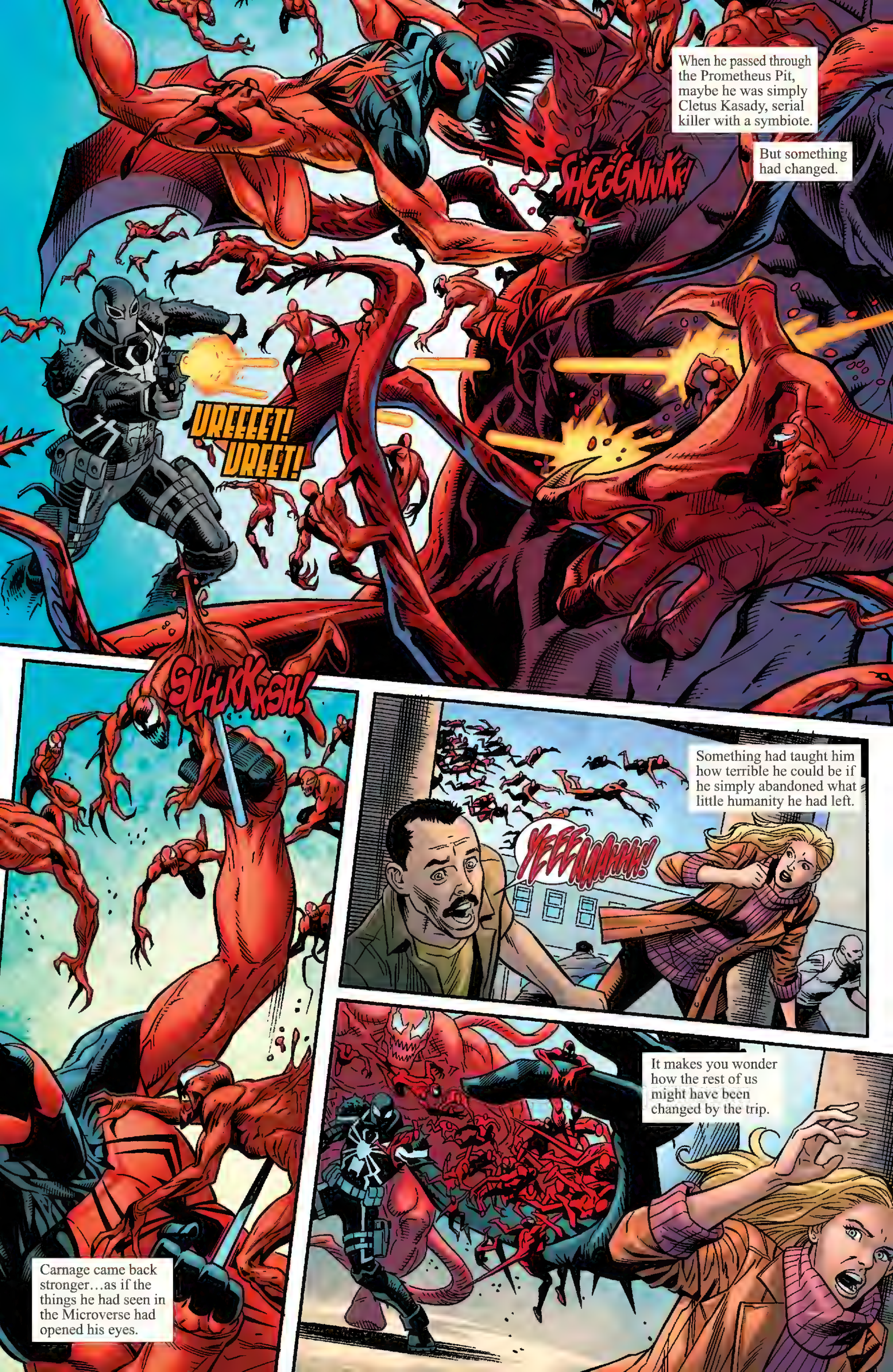

HAHAHA HAHA!
KATY, MOVE!
DO WE HAVE A PLAN HERE?
THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL?
GREAT. I'M GOING FOR HIS EYES.
HSSS!
UHN!
THE HYBRIDS...FROM RADU'S BODY BANKS...
REEEEEE!
As a reporter, you build disassociation. You don't get involved, to keep your objectivity.
THUD!
When you report on the things I report on…you do it to keep your sanity.

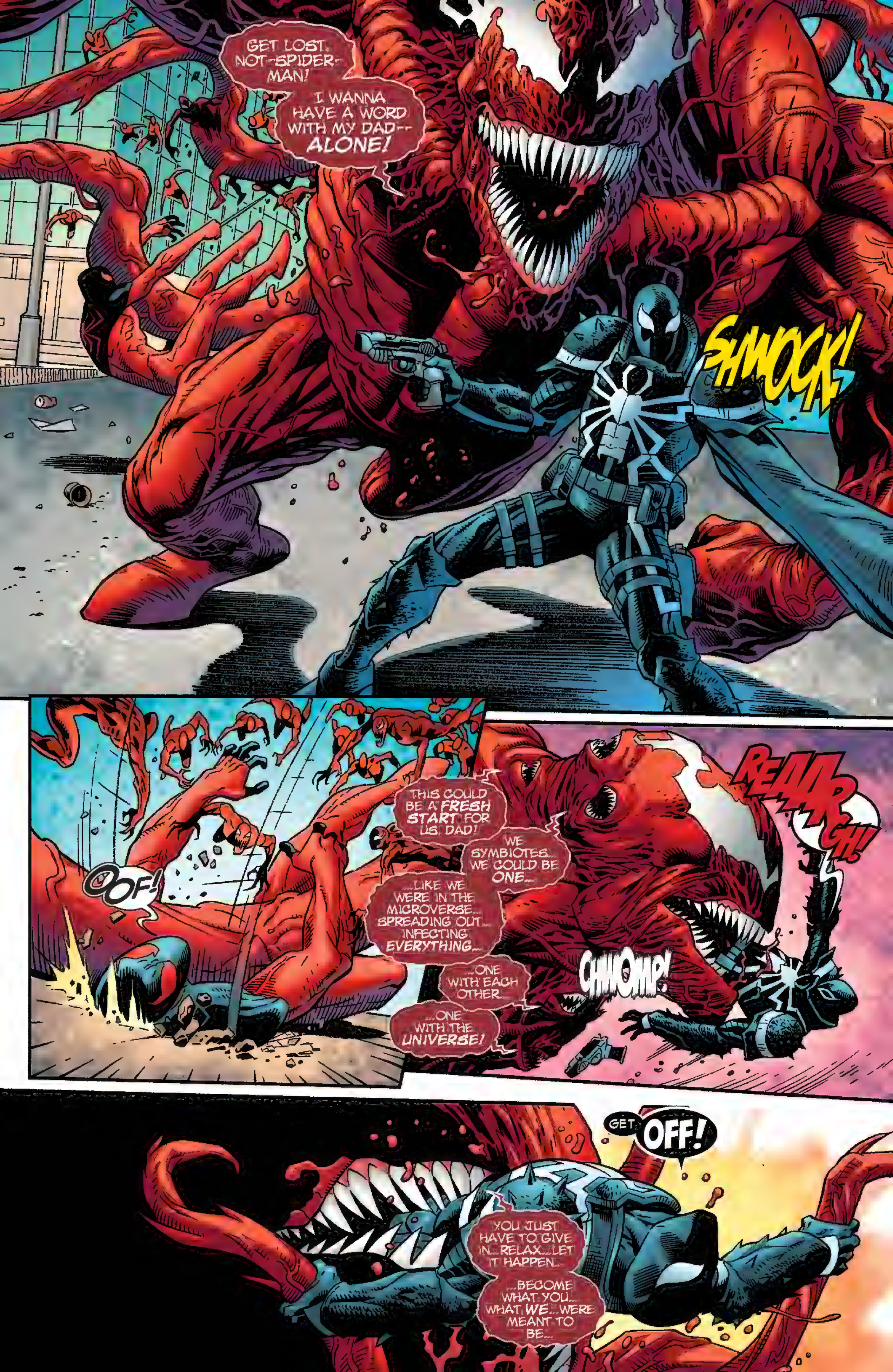

This is one of those times.
In the Microverse…with alien despots and saviors, spaceships and monsters…it was too surreal.
You could separate yourself, see it as a kind of out-of-body experience.
But here…seeing these monsters swarm over us, over the people of Houston, Texas…
The true horror of it hit home.

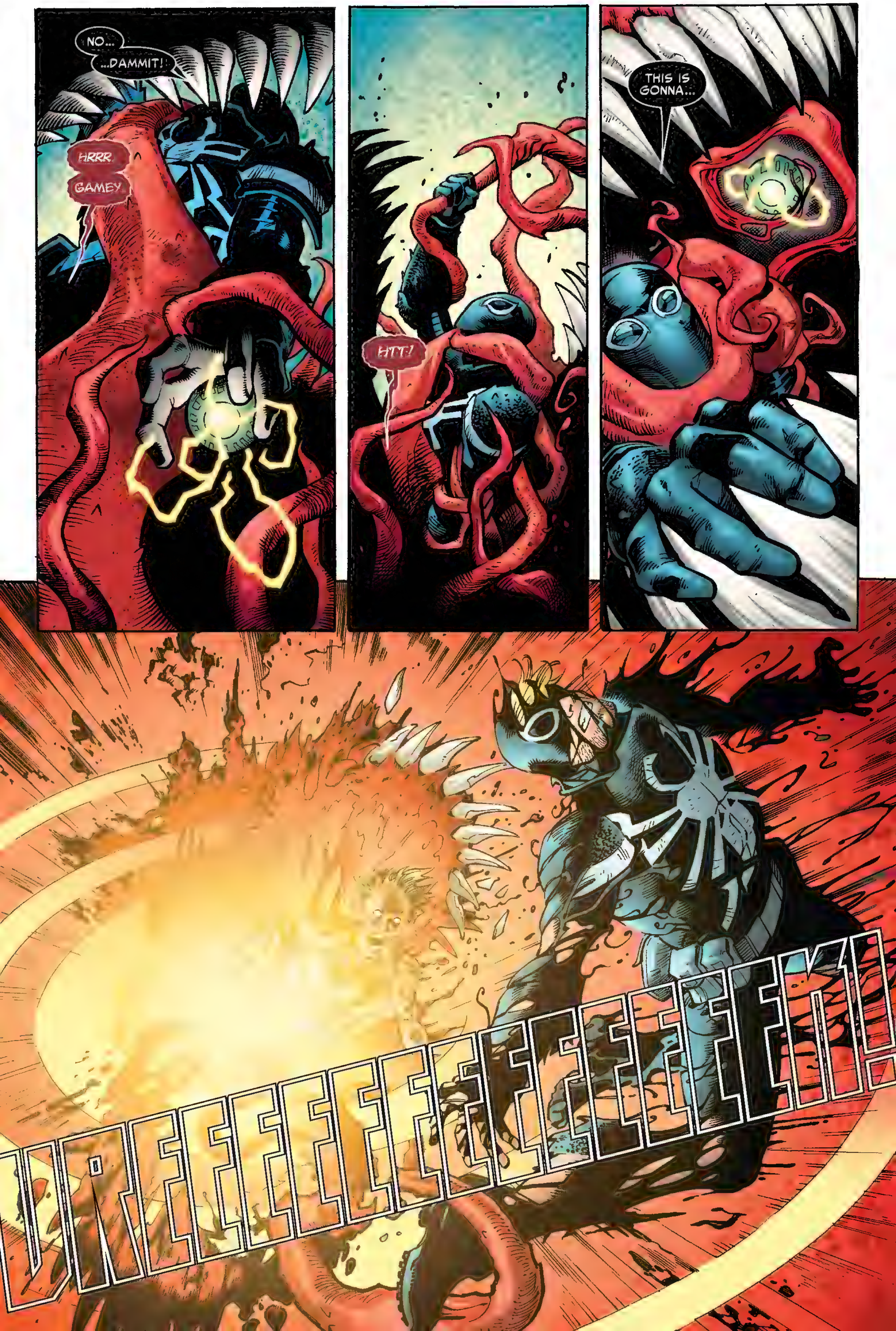

The small hybrids were being absorbed and spat back out of Carnage's body at an alarming rate. One went in and two emerged.
Nothing Scarlet Spider and Venom could do would be enough.
That nothing they could do would be enough.
People were dying, and dying horribly.
Like I said… no happy endings.
But there's a difference between an unhappy ending…
…and a never-ending nightmare.

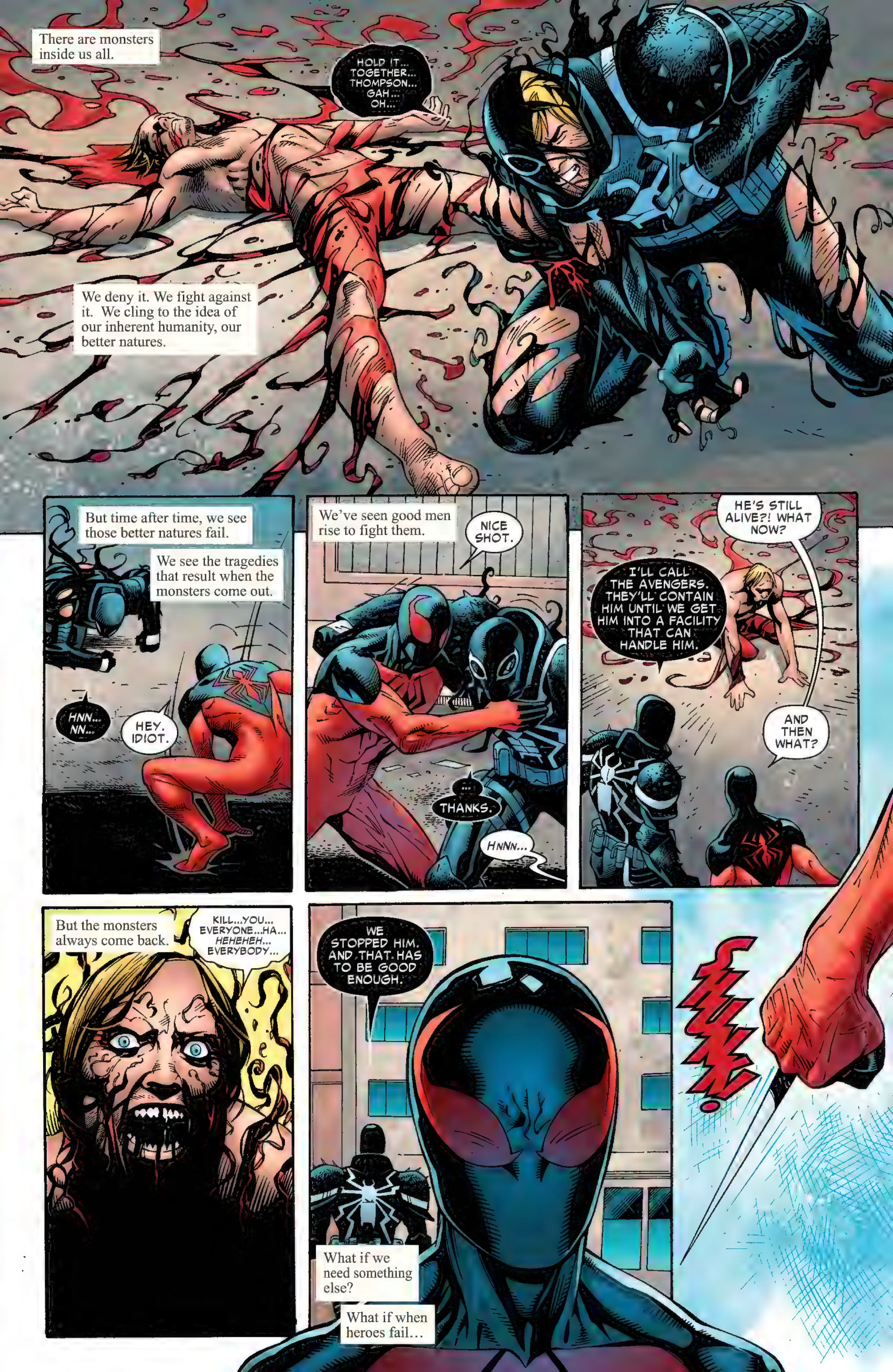

YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELVES!
I LEFT! I LEFT THIS WHOLE **UNIVERSE** BEHIND, BUT YOU HAD TO COME AFTER ME!
IT'S LIKE YOU **WANT** ME TO KILL YOU!
CAN'T... CAN'T MOVE...
...VENOM...
YOU'RE **BEGGING** ME FOR IT.
NYEAARGHH!
WELL, I'M HAPPY TO--
SHMM!
AAAAAHHHH!
SHMM!
And then it happens. The size differential, the one Dr. Ketola said would wear off in theory?
Turns out her theories are pretty good. She left out the part that said it would be **agony.**

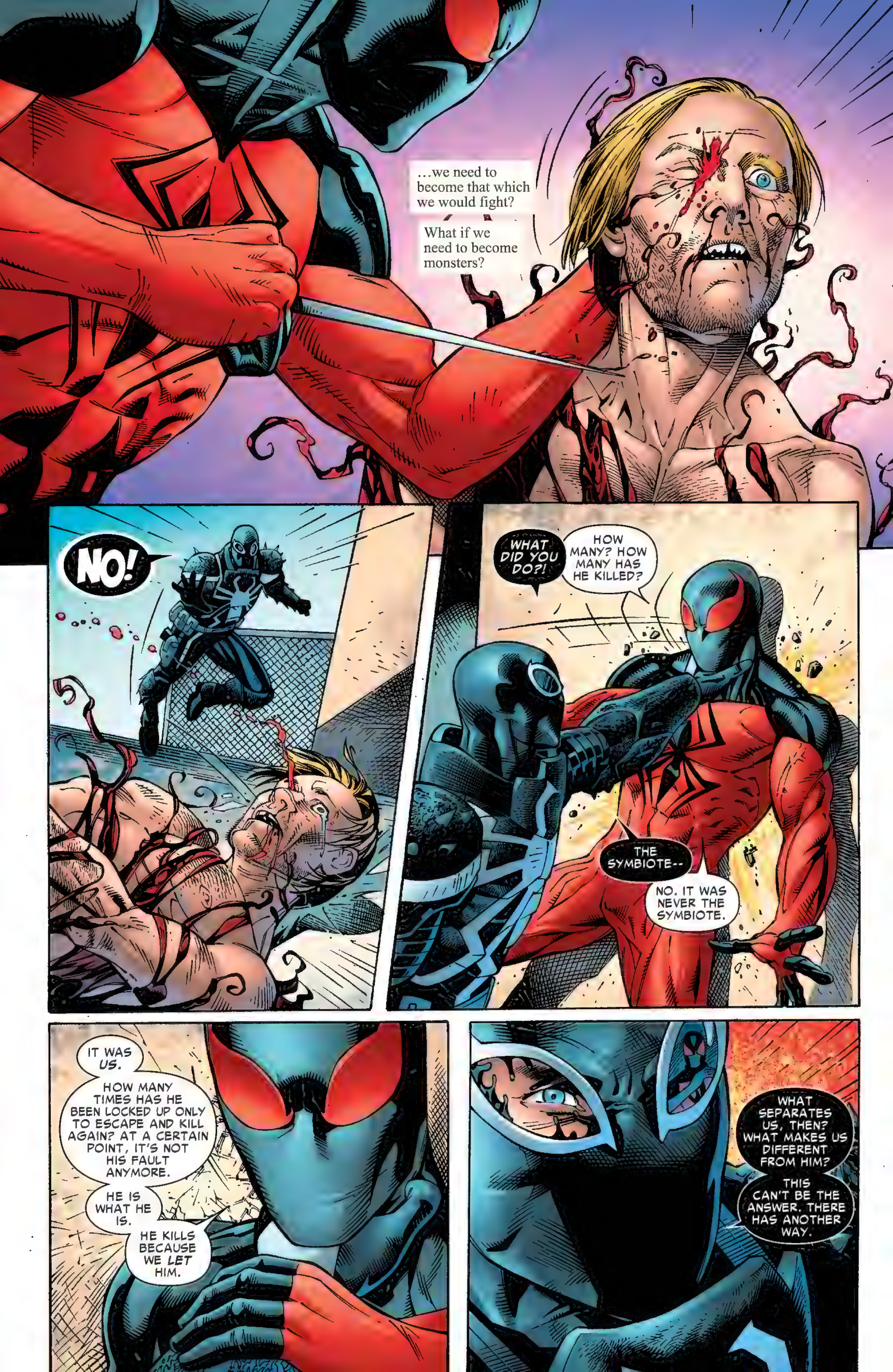

WHAT'S THE MATTER, FELLAS?
THAT GROWTH SPURT TAKE A BIT OUT OF YOU?
THAT'S TOO BAD, REALLY.
BECAUSE I'M FEELING TIP-TOP!
NOT-SPIDER-MAN AND NOT-VENOM... WHAT A PAIR OF FEEBLE HALF-ASS HEROES YOU TURNED OUT TO BE.
BUT, ME... I'M PURE... UNDILUTED...
CARNAGE!
HE STILL WANTS A FIGHT.
LET'S NOT DISAPPOINT HIM.
KATY... GO!
GET AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS POSSIBLE!
HOW DO YOU WANT TO DO THIS?
THE MOST PAINFUL WAY POSSIBLE.

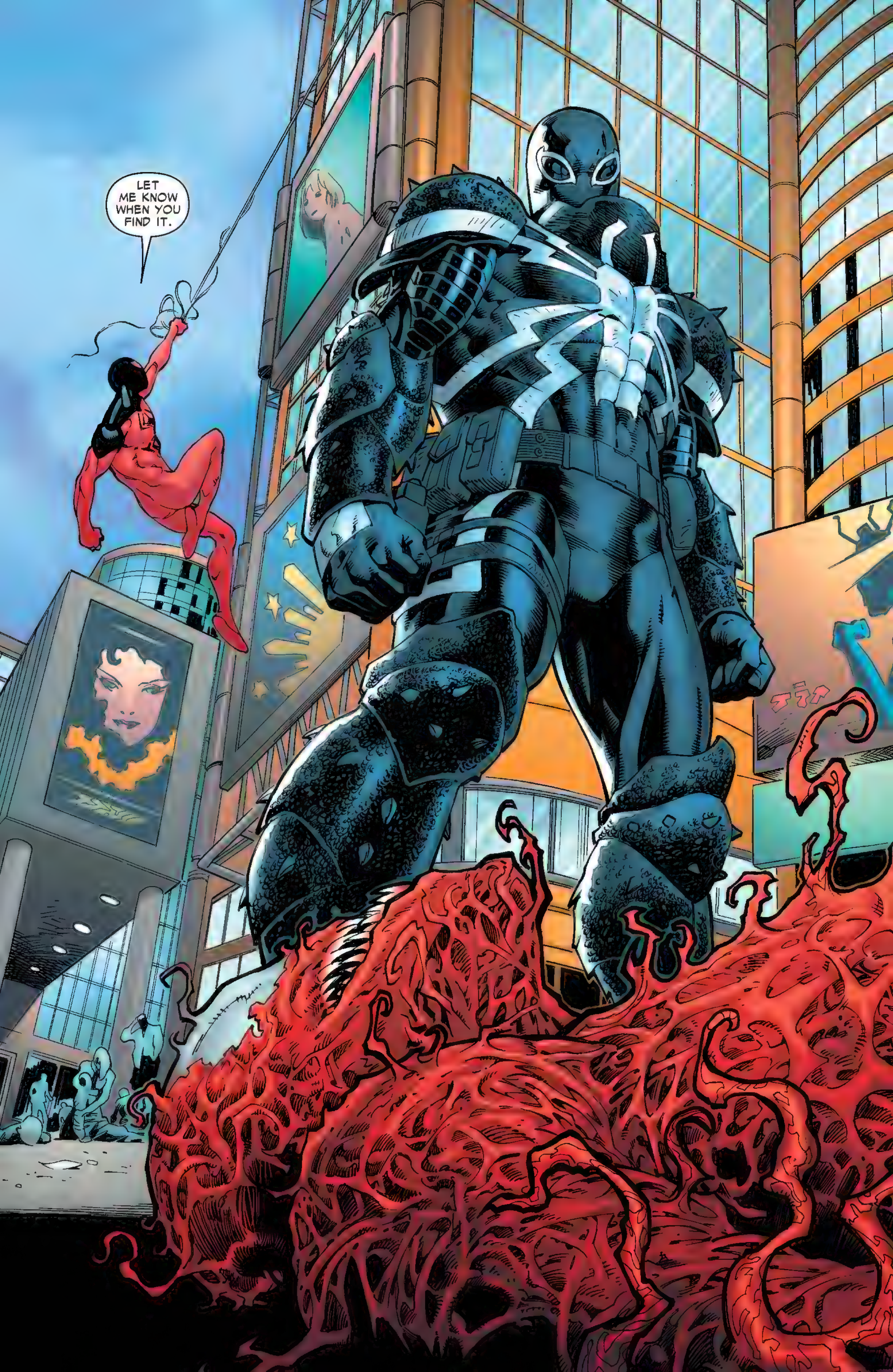

When he passed through the Prometheus Pit, maybe he was simply Cletus Kasady, serial killer with a symbiote.
But something had changed.
SHGGGNNK!
UREEEET! UREEET!
SLLKKKSH!
Carnage came back stronger…as if the things he had seen in the Microverse had opened his eyes.
Something had taught him how terrible he could be if he simply abandoned what little humanity he had left.
YEEEAAAHHH!
It makes you wonder how the rest of us might have been changed by the trip.

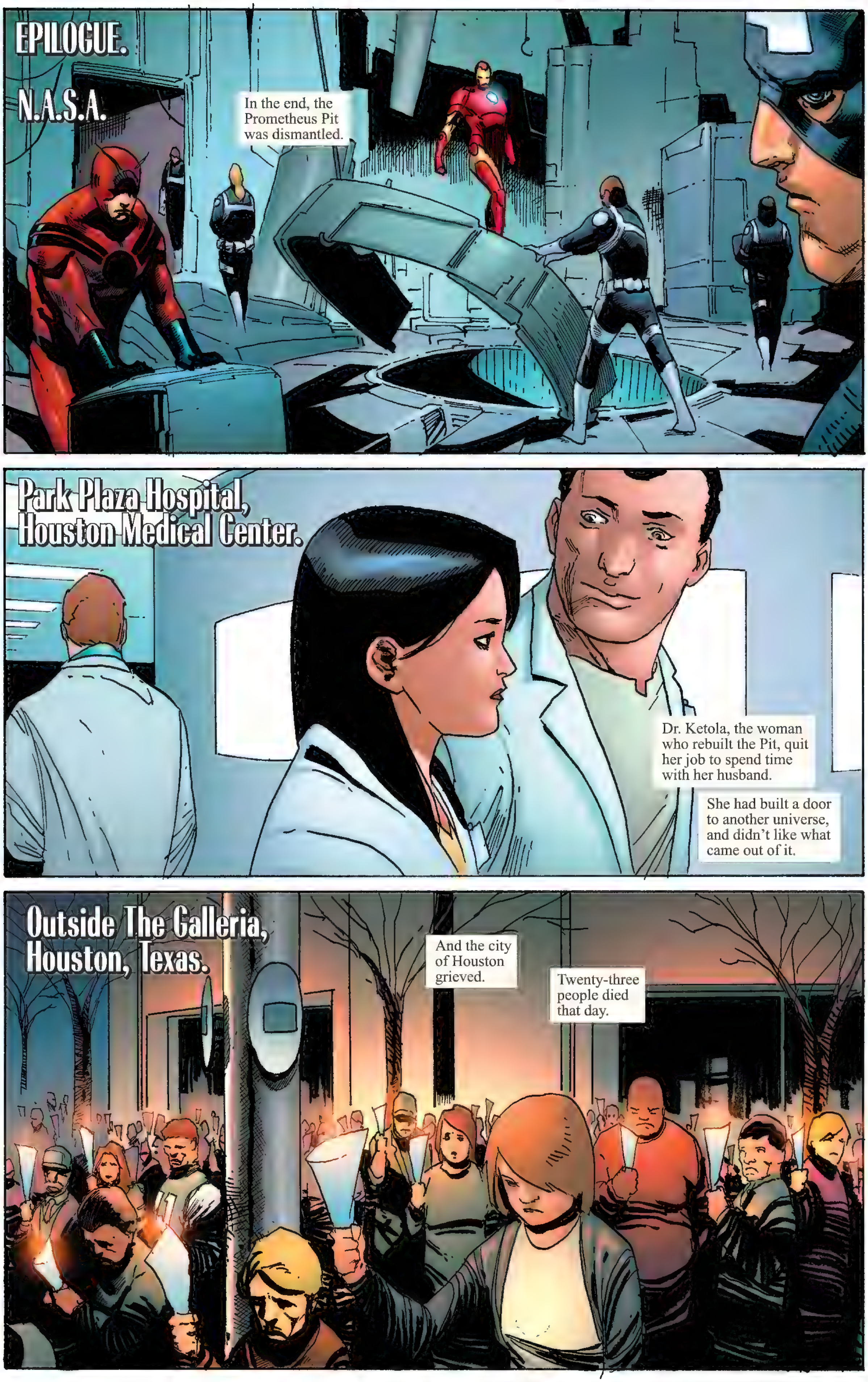

GET LOST, NOT-SPIDER-MAN!
I WANNA HAVE A WORD WITH MY DAD-- ALONE!
SHMOCK!
OOF!
THIS COULD BE A FRESH START FOR US, DAD!
WE SYMBIOTES... WE COULD BE ONE...
...LIKE WE WERE IN THE MICROVERSE... SPREADING OUT... INFECTING EVERYTHING...
...ONE WITH EACH OTHER...
...ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE!
REAAARGH!
CHOMP!
GET OFF!
YOU JUST HAVE TO GIVE IN... RELAX... LET IT HAPPEN...
...BECOME WHAT YOU... WHAT WE... WERE MEANT TO BE...

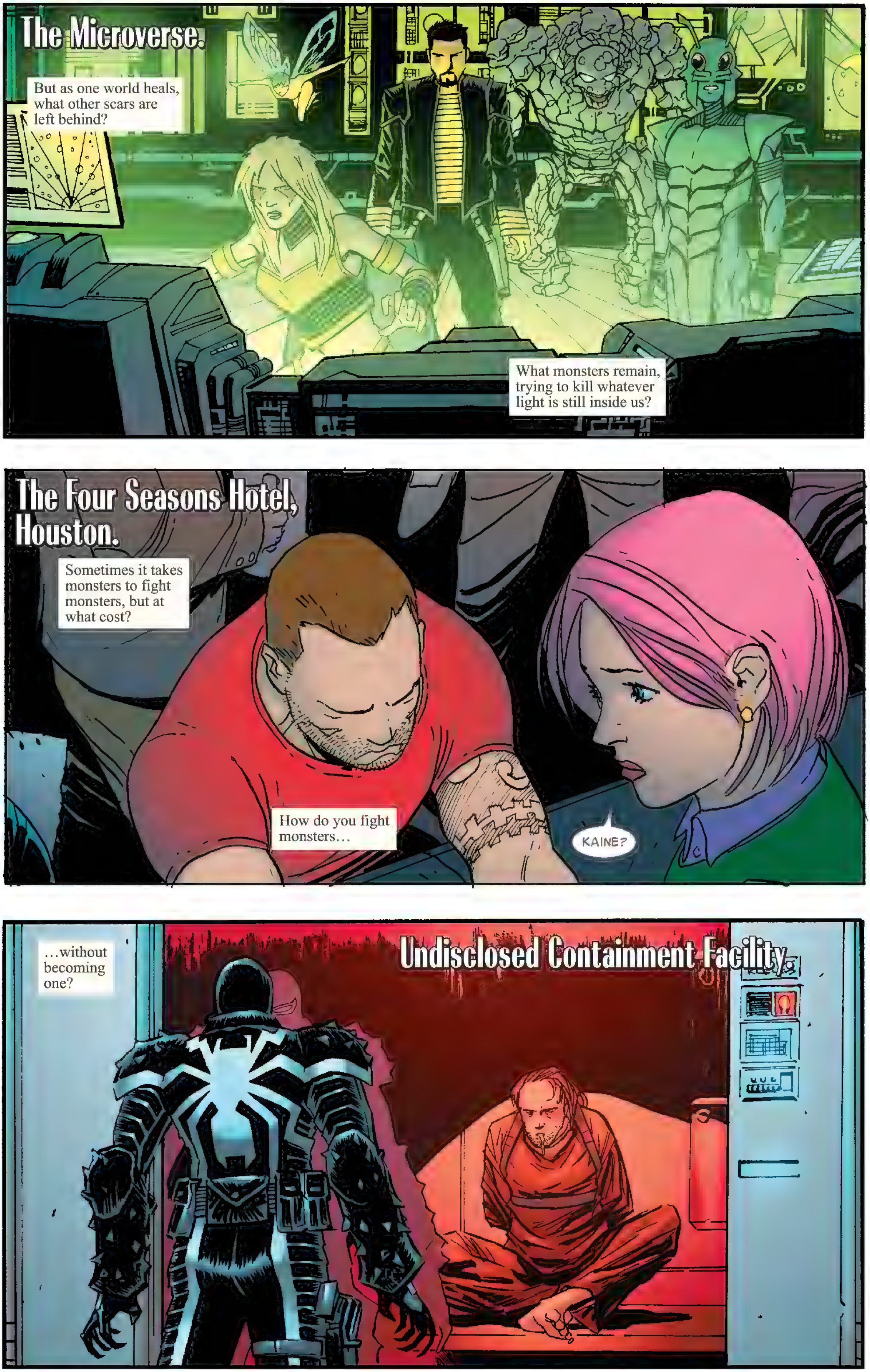

NO...
...DAMMIT!
HRRR
GAMEY
HTT!
THIS IS GONNA...
DREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEN!

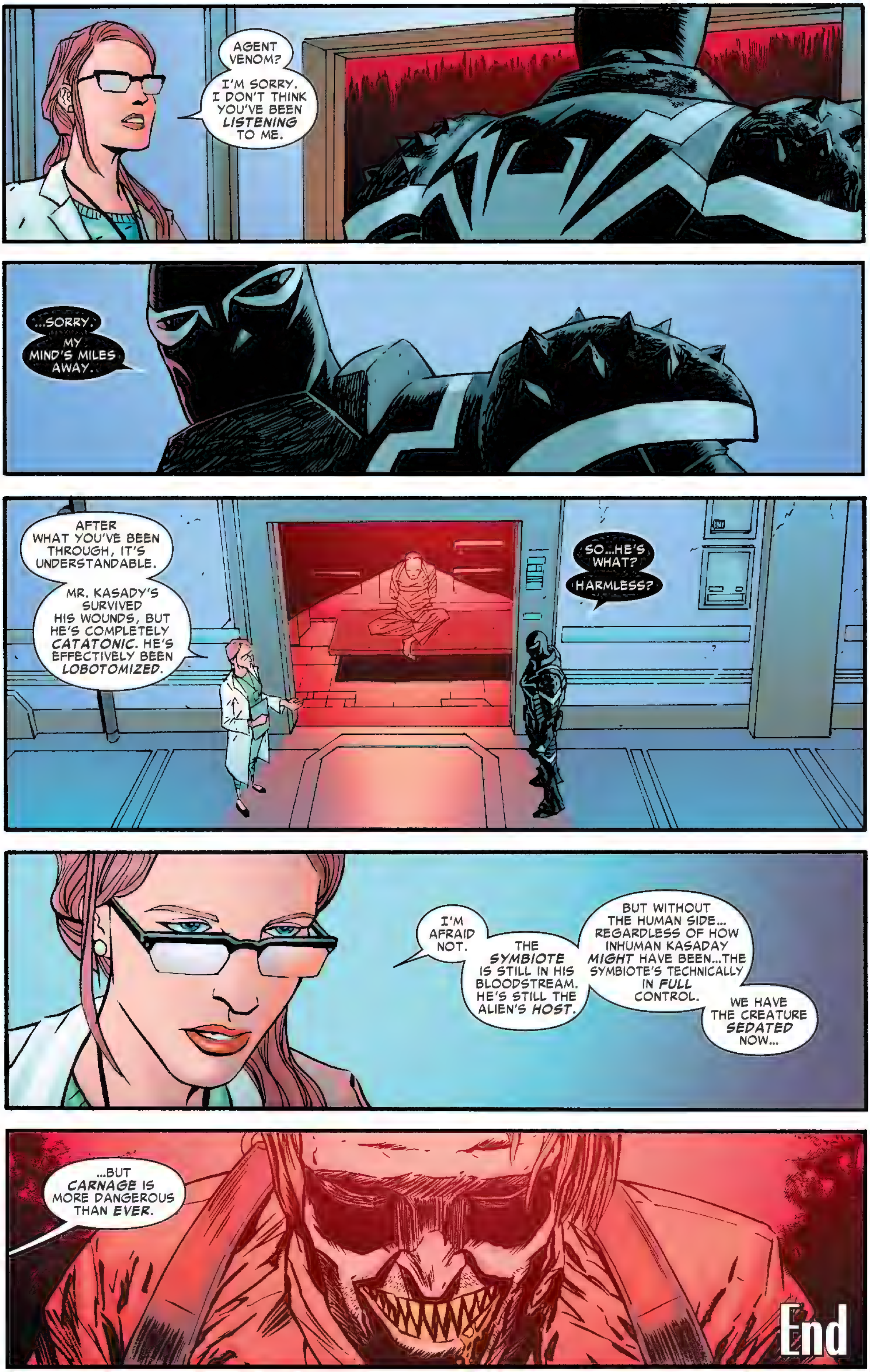

There are monsters inside us all.
HOLD IT... TOGETHER... THOMPSON... GAH... OH...
We deny it. We fight against it. We cling to the idea of our inherent humanity, our better natures.
But time after time, we see those better natures fail.
We see the tragedies that result when the monsters come out.
HNN... NN...
HEY. IDIOT.
We've seen good men rise to fight them.
NICE SHOT.
...
THANKS.
HNNN...
HE'S STILL ALIVE?! WHAT NOW?
I'LL CALL THE AVENGERS. THEY'LL CONTAIN HIM UNTIL WE GET HIM INTO A FACILITY THAT CAN HANDLE HIM.
AND THEN WHAT?
But the monsters always come back.
KILL...YOU... EVERYONE...HA... HEHEHEH... EVERYBODY...
WE STOPPED HIM. AND THAT HAS TO BE GOOD ENOUGH.
What if we need something else?
What if when heroes fail…


…we need to become that which we would fight?
What if we need to become monsters?
NO!
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
HOW MANY? HOW MANY HAS HE KILLED?
THE SYMBIOTE--
NO. IT WAS NEVER THE SYMBIOTE.
IT WAS *US*.
HOW MANY TIMES HAS HE BEEN LOCKED UP ONLY TO ESCAPE AND KILL AGAIN? AT A CERTAIN POINT, IT'S NOT HIS FAULT ANYMORE.
HE IS WHAT HE IS.
HE KILLS BECAUSE WE *LET* HIM.
WHAT SEPARATES US, THEN? WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT FROM HIM?
THIS CAN'T BE THE ANSWER. THERE HAS ANOTHER WAY.

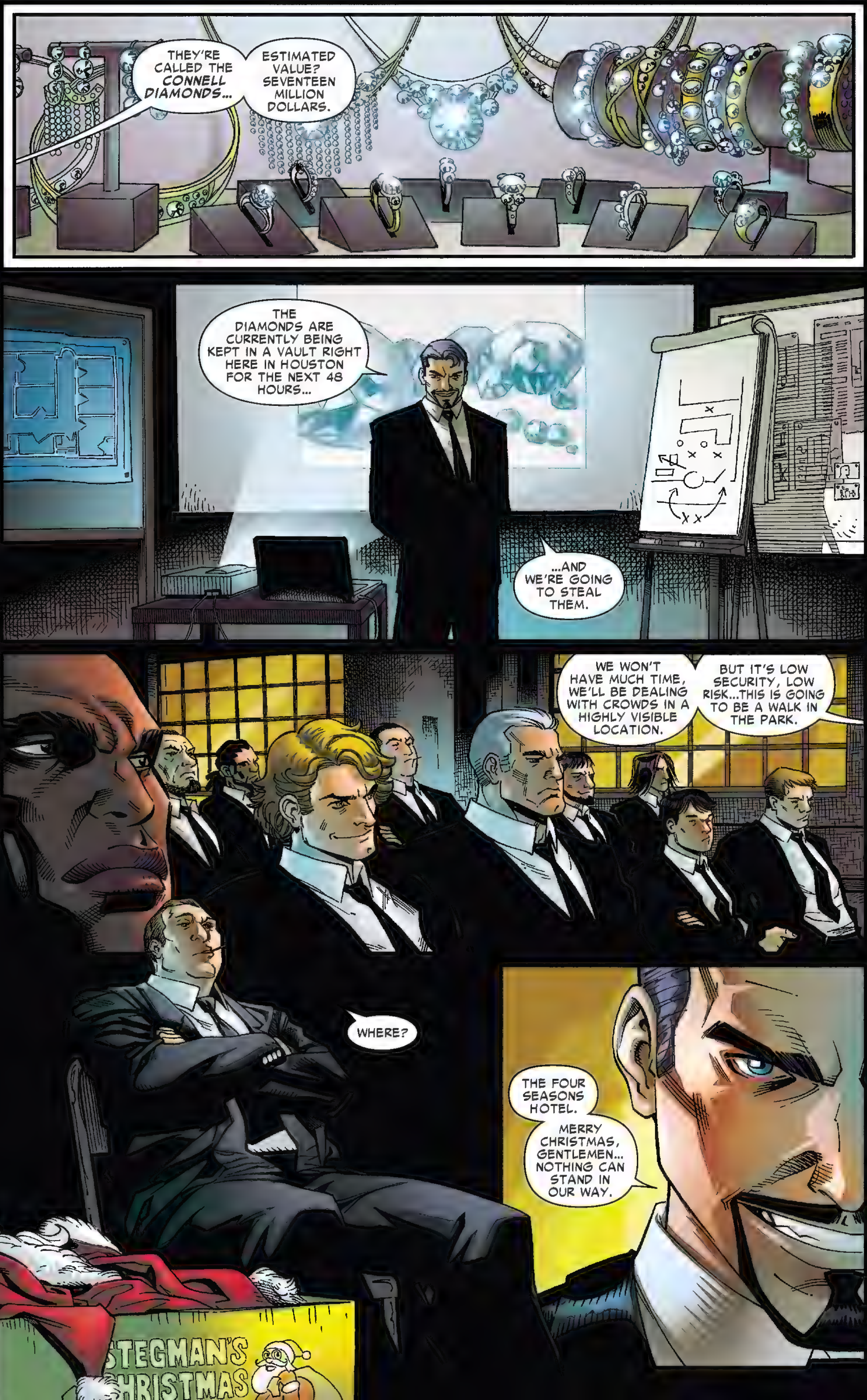

LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU FIND IT.

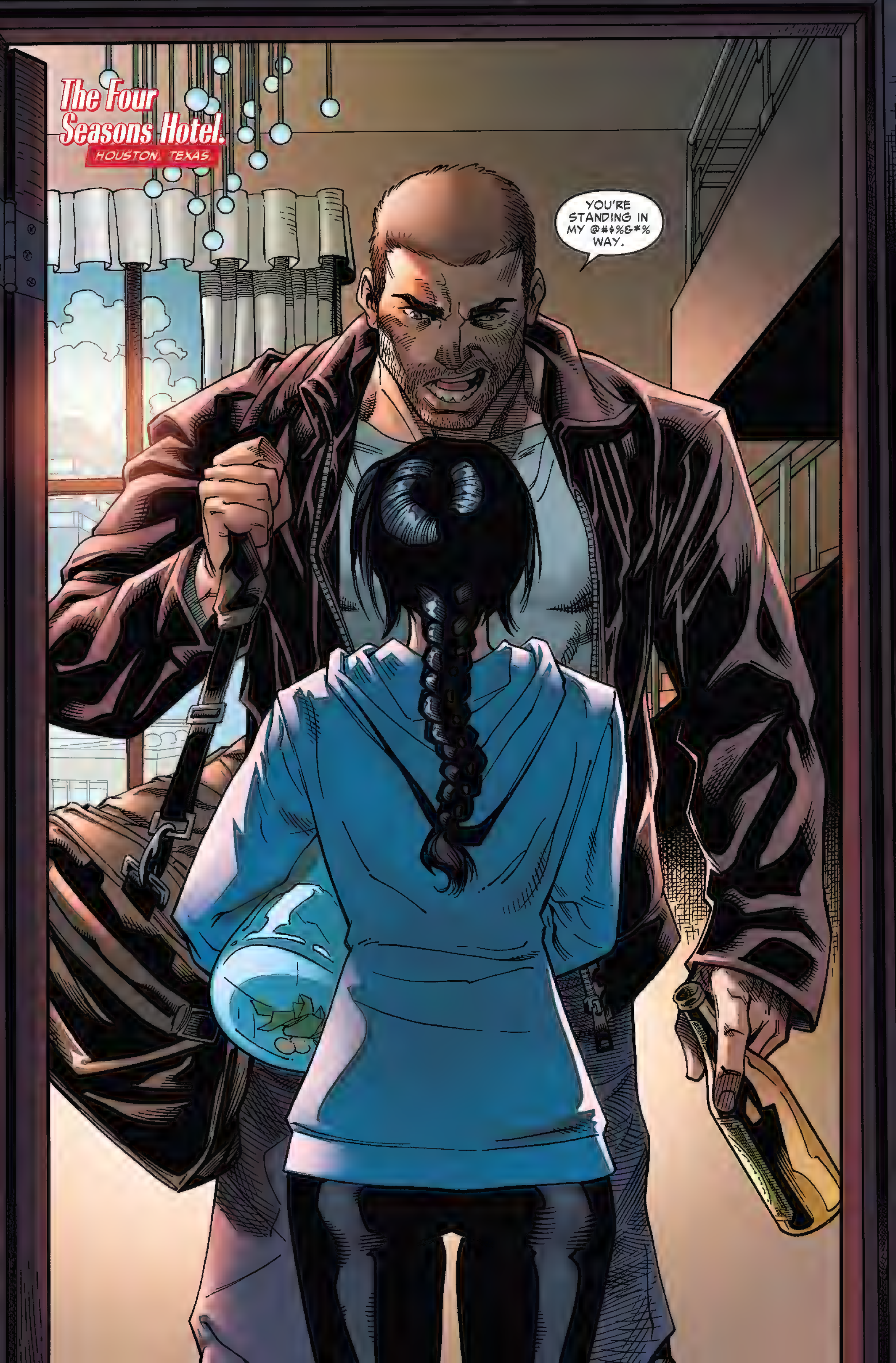

EPILOGUE.
N.A.S.A.
In the end, the Prometheus Pit was dismantled.
Park Plaza Hospital, Houston Medical Center.
Dr. Ketola, the woman who rebuilt the Pit, quit her job to spend time with her husband.
She had built a door to another universe, and didn't like what came out of it.
Outside The Galleria, Houston, Texas.
And the city of Houston grieved.
Twenty-three people died that day.

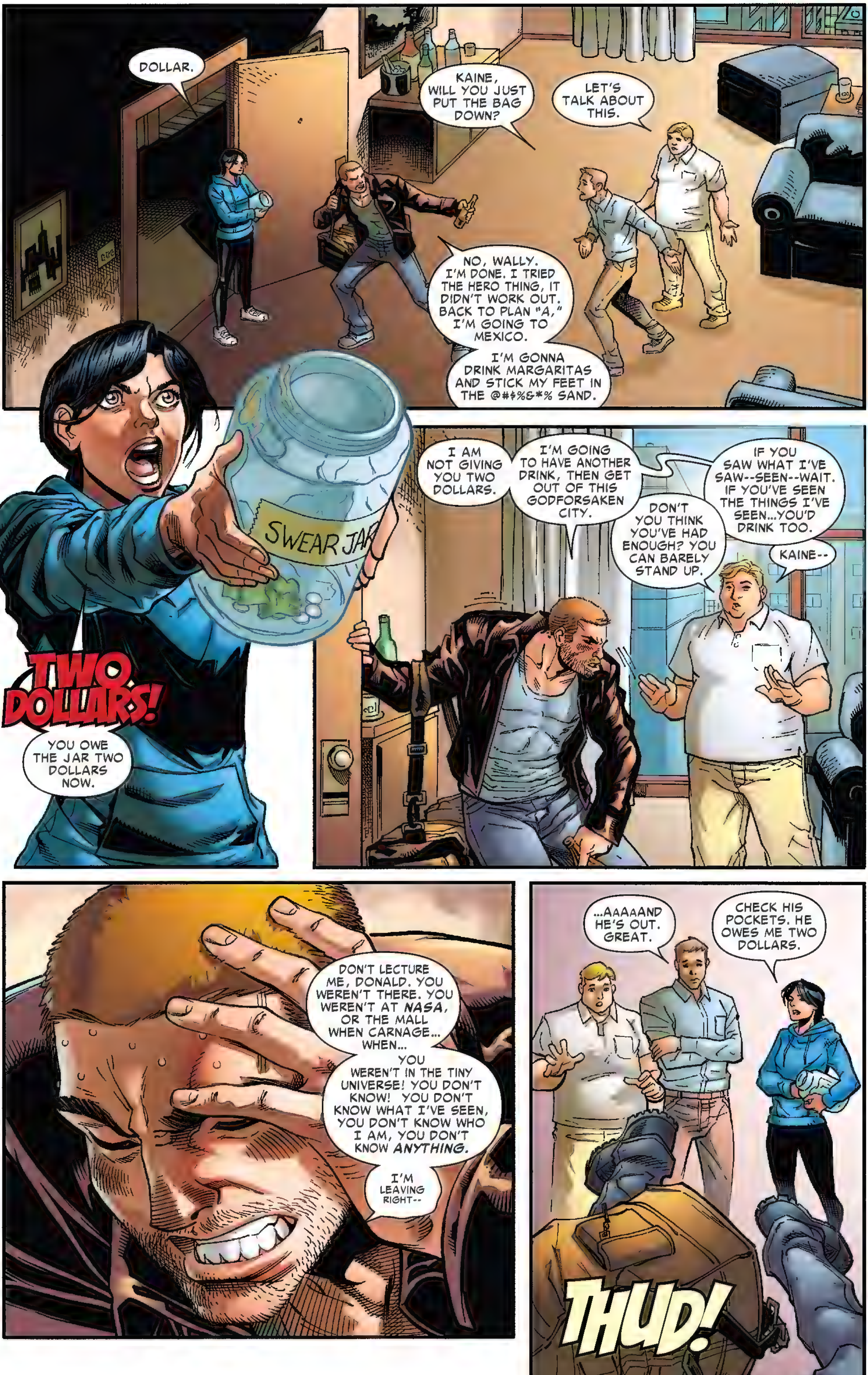

The Microverse.
But as one world heals, what other scars are left behind?
What monsters remain, trying to kill whatever light is still inside us?
The Four Seasons Hotel, Houston.
Sometimes it takes monsters to fight monsters, but at what cost?
How do you fight monsters…
KAINE?
…without becoming one?
Undisclosed Containment Facility.

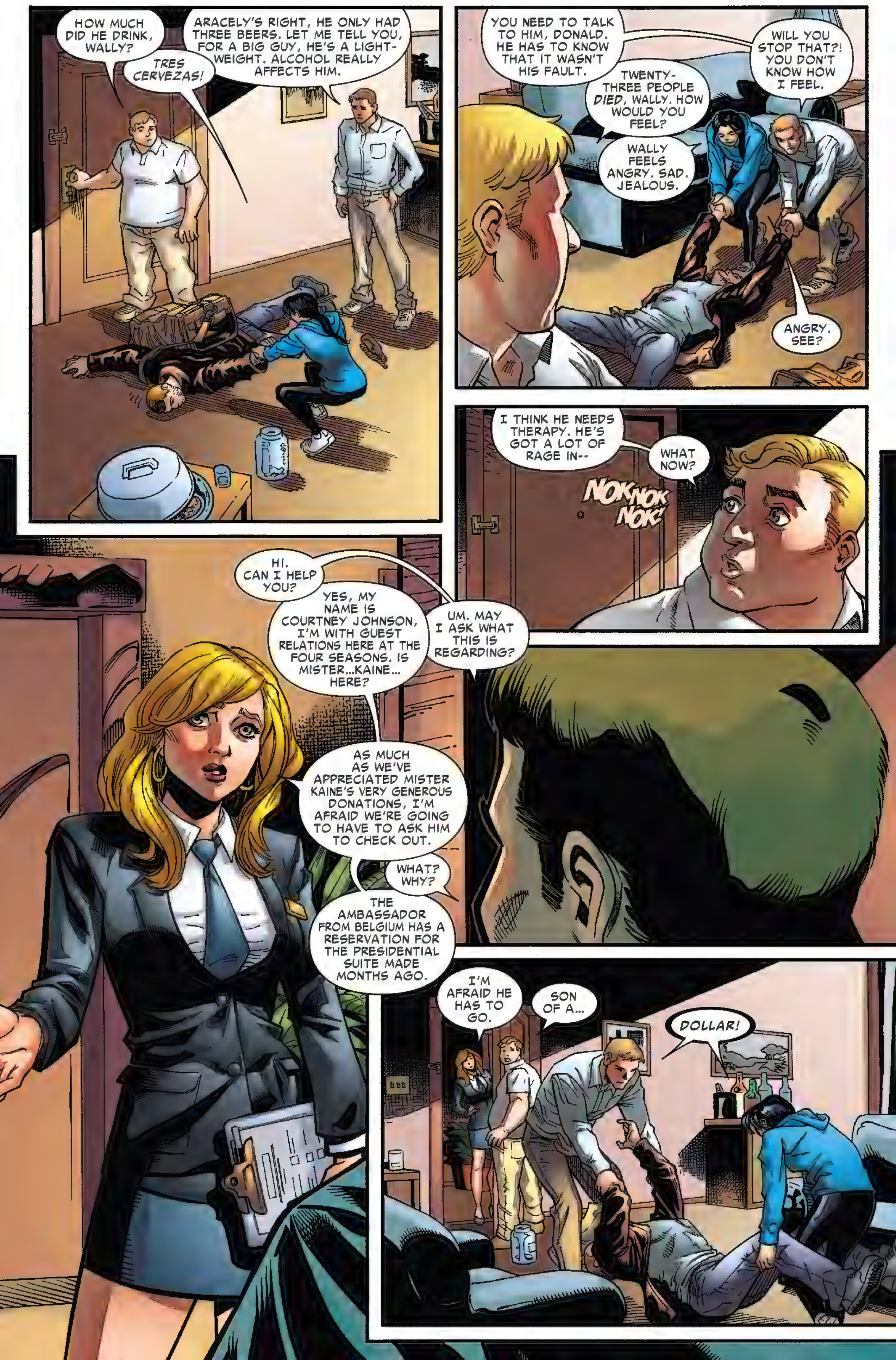

AGENT VENOM?
I'M SORRY. I DON'T THINK YOU'VE BEEN *LISTENING* TO ME.
...SORRY. MY MIND'S MILES AWAY.
AFTER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.
MR. KASADY'S SURVIVED HIS WOUNDS, BUT HE'S COMPLETELY *CATATONIC*. HE'S EFFECTIVELY BEEN *LOBOTOMIZED*.
SO...HE'S WHAT? HARMLESS?
I'M AFRAID NOT.
THE *SYMBIOTE* IS STILL IN HIS BLOODSTREAM. HE'S STILL THE ALIEN'S *HOST*.
BUT WITHOUT THE HUMAN SIDE... REGARDLESS OF HOW INHUMAN KASADAY *MIGHT* HAVE BEEN...THE SYMBIOTE'S TECHNICALLY IN *FULL* CONTROL.
WE HAVE THE CREATURE *SEDATED* NOW...
...BUT *CARNAGE* IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN *EVER*.
End

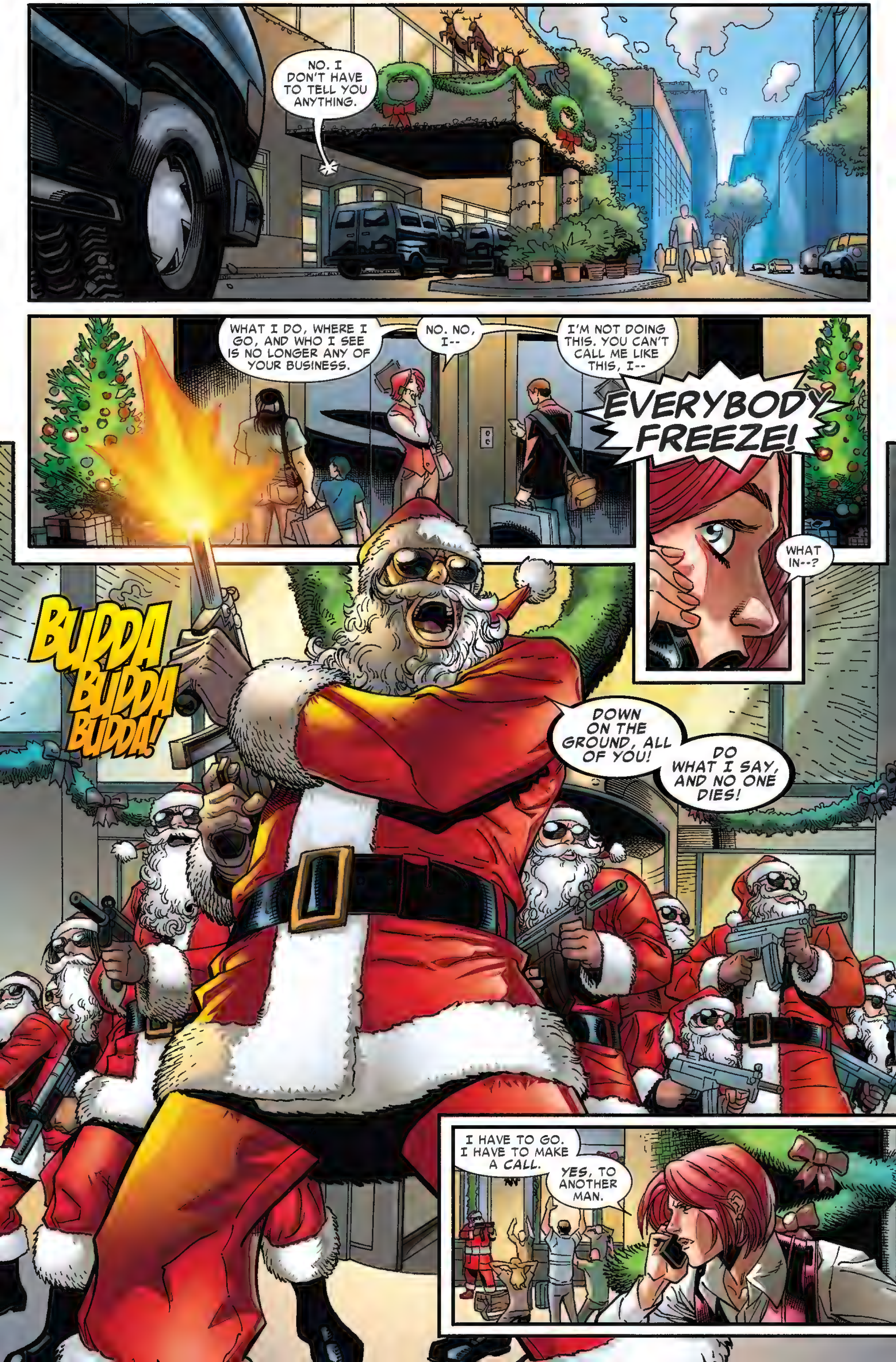
scarlet spider #12

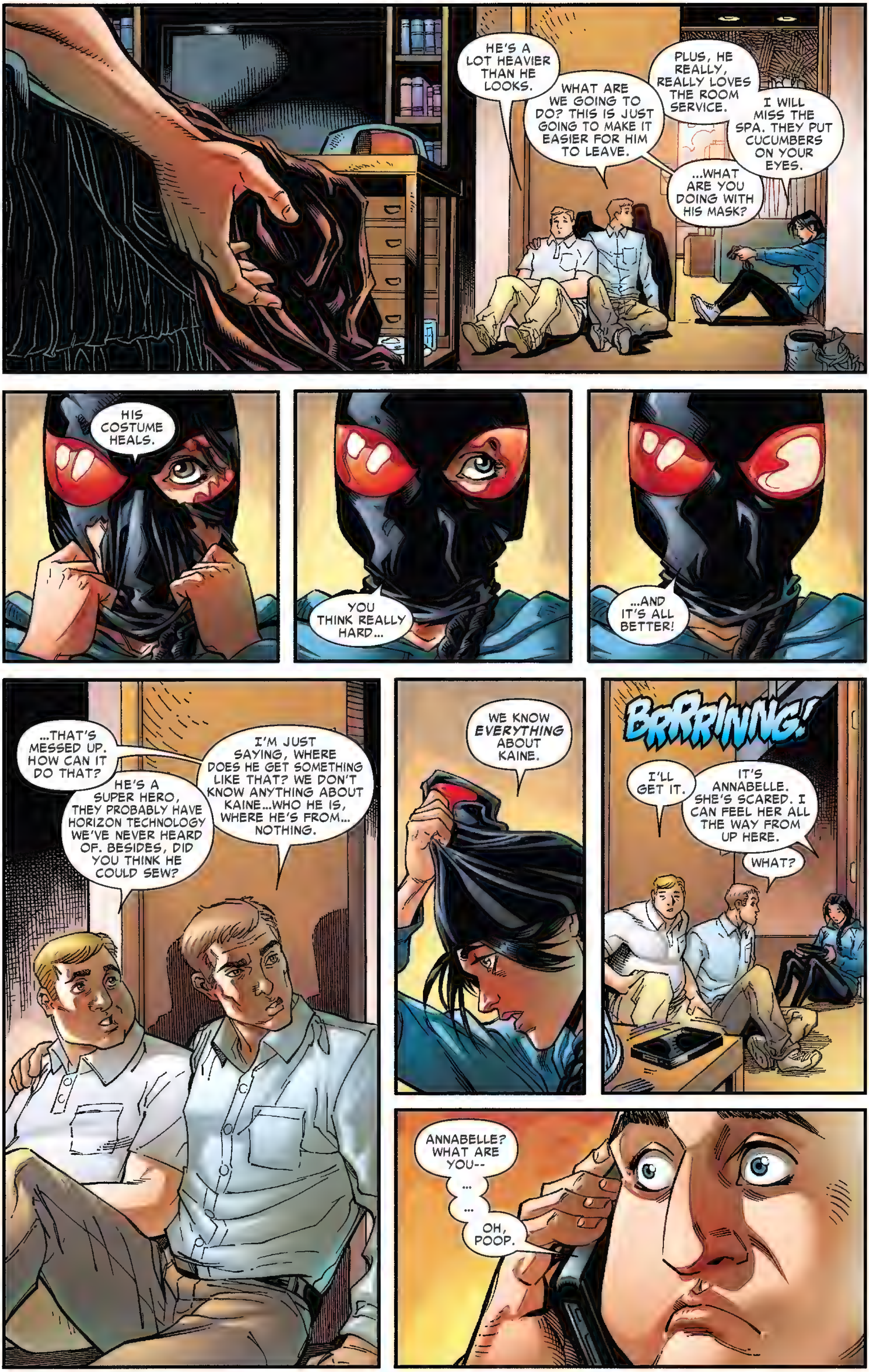

THEY'RE CALLED THE *CONNELL DIAMONDS*...
ESTIMATED VALUE? SEVENTEEN MILLION DOLLARS.
THE DIAMONDS ARE CURRENTLY BEING KEPT IN A VAULT RIGHT HERE IN HOUSTON FOR THE NEXT 48 HOURS...
...AND WE'RE GOING TO STEAL THEM.
WE WON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, WE'LL BE DEALING WITH CROWDS IN A HIGHLY VISIBLE LOCATION.
BUT IT'S LOW SECURITY, LOW RISK...THIS IS GOING TO BE A WALK IN THE PARK.
WHERE?
THE FOUR SEASONS HOTEL.
MERRY CHRISTMAS, GENTLEMEN... NOTHING CAN STAND IN OUR WAY.
STEGMAN'S
HRISTMAS

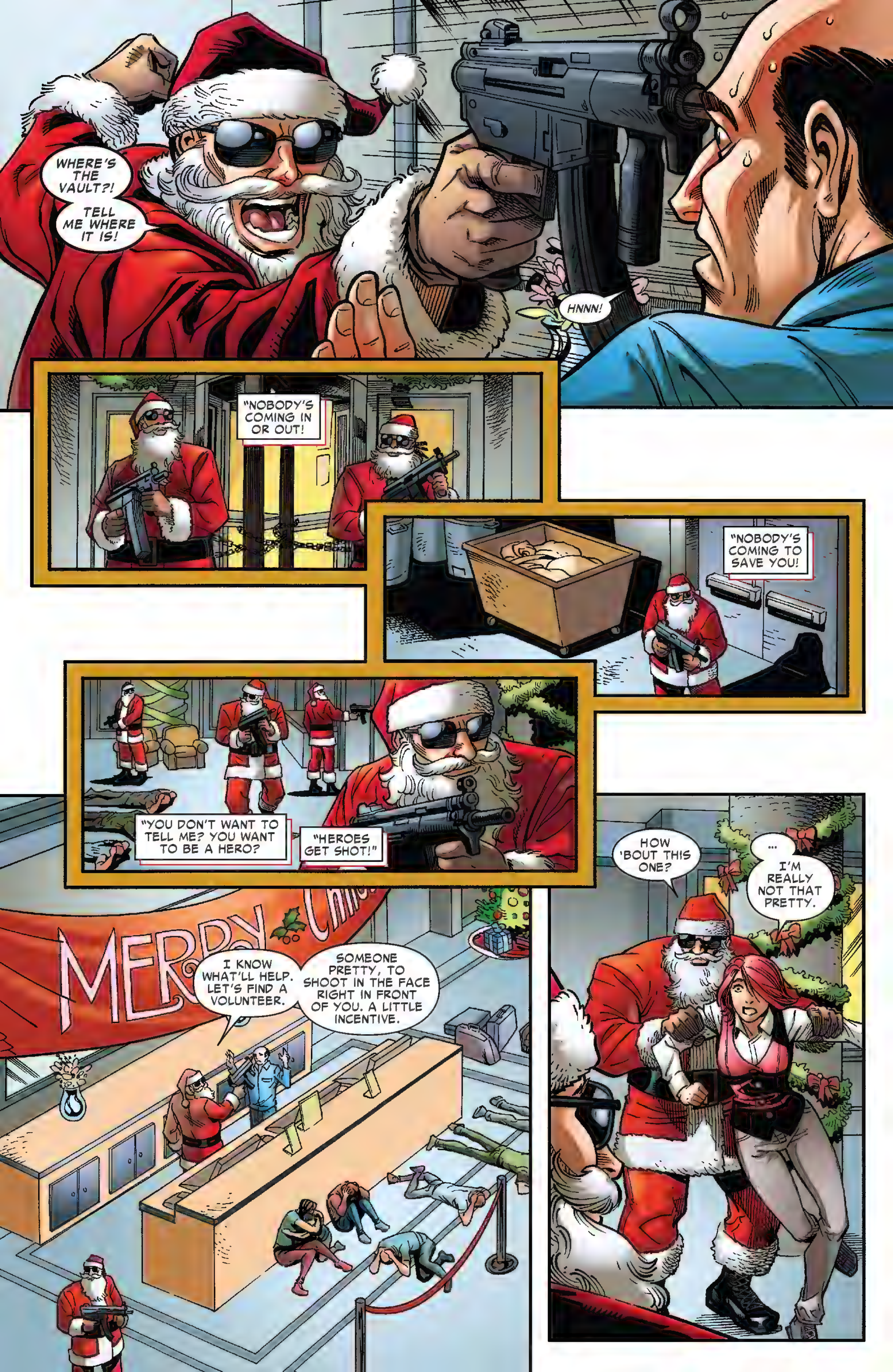

The Four Seasons Hotel.
HOUSTON, TEXAS.
YOU'RE STANDING IN MY @#$%&*% WAY.

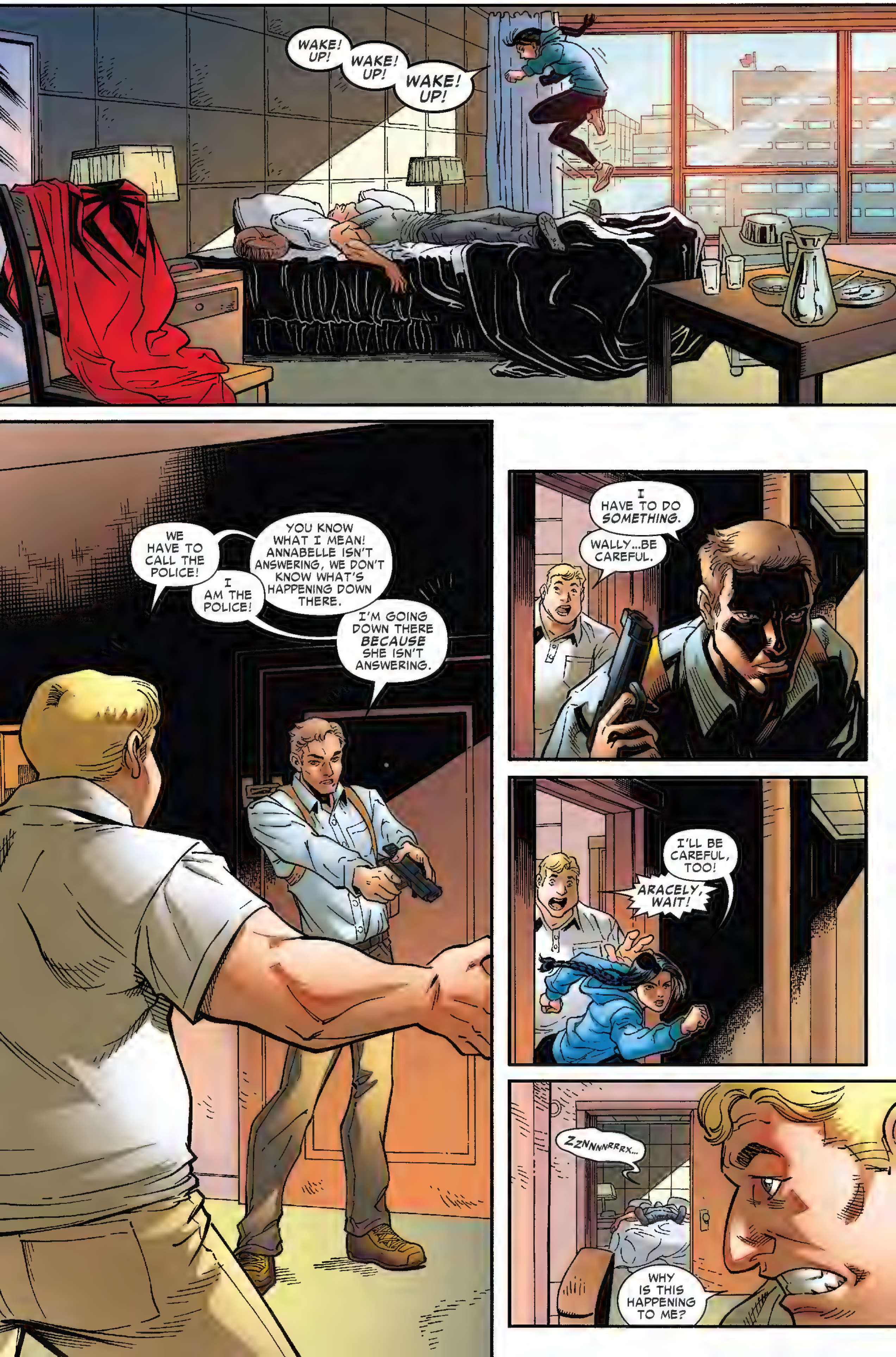

DOLLAR.
KAINE, WILL YOU JUST PUT THE BAG DOWN?
LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS.
NO, WALLY. I'M DONE. I TRIED THE HERO THING, IT DIDN'T WORK OUT. BACK TO PLAN "A," I'M GOING TO MEXICO.
I'M GONNA DRINK MARGARITAS AND STICK MY FEET IN THE @#$%&*% SAND.
SWEAR JAR
TWO DOLLARS!
YOU OWE THE JAR TWO DOLLARS NOW.
I AM NOT GIVING YOU TWO DOLLARS.
I'M GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER DRINK, THEN GET OUT OF THIS GODFORSAKEN CITY.
IF YOU SAW WHAT I'VE SAW--SEEN--WAIT. IF YOU'VE SEEN THE THINGS I'VE SEEN...YOU'D DRINK TOO.
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH? YOU CAN BARELY STAND UP.
KAINE--
DON'T LECTURE ME, DONALD. YOU WEREN'T THERE. YOU WEREN'T AT *NASA*, OR THE MALL WHEN CARNAGE... WHEN...
YOU WEREN'T IN THE TINY UNIVERSE! YOU DON'T KNOW! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I'VE SEEN, YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM, YOU DON'T KNOW *ANYTHING*.
I'M LEAVING RIGHT--
...AAAAAND HE'S OUT. GREAT.
CHECK HIS POCKETS. HE OWES ME TWO DOLLARS.
THUD!

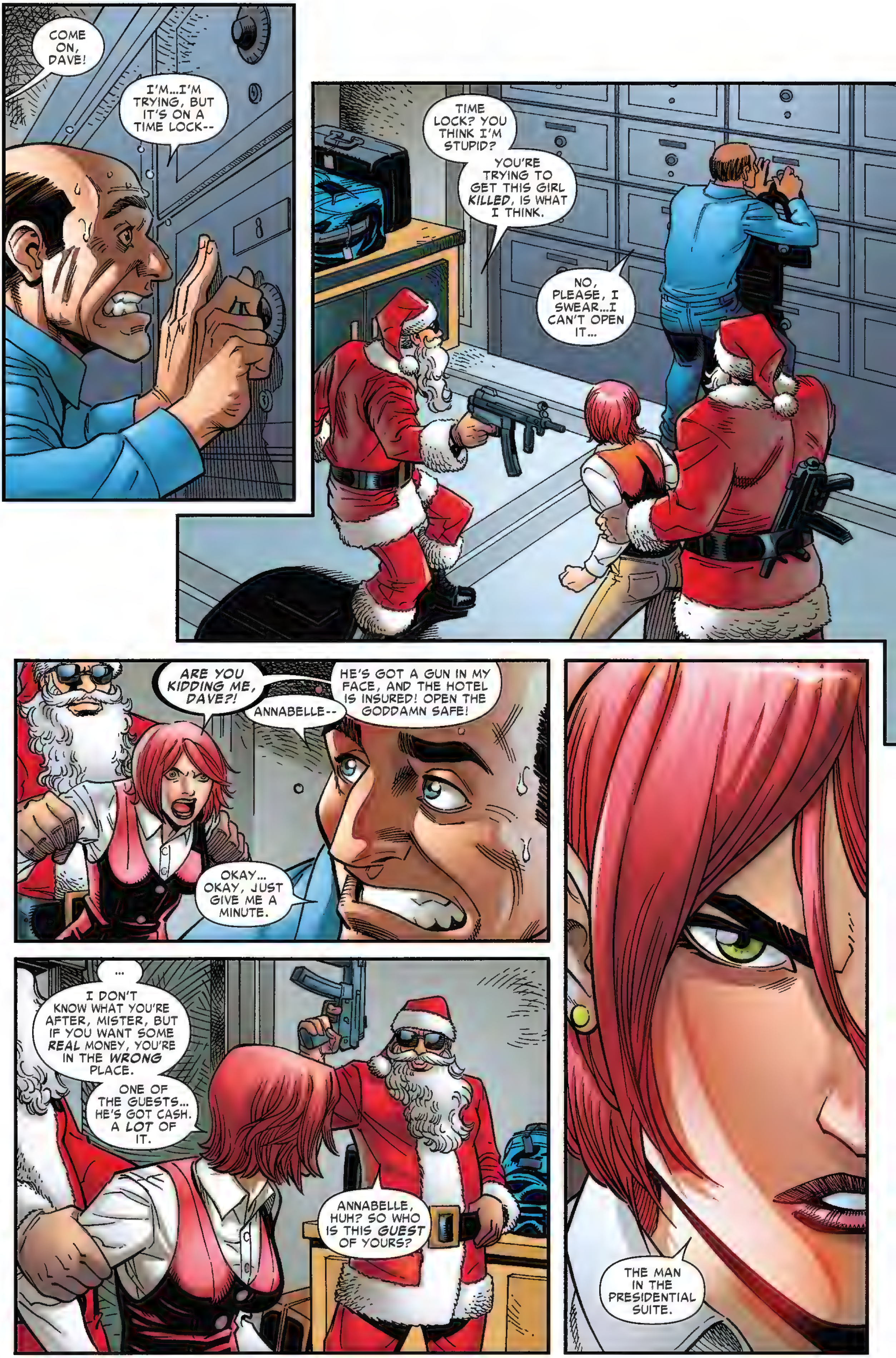

HOW MUCH DID HE DRINK, WALLY?
TRES CERVEZAS!
ARACELY'S RIGHT, HE ONLY HAD THREE BEERS. LET ME TELL YOU, FOR A BIG GUY, HE'S A LIGHTWEIGHT. ALCOHOL REALLY AFFECTS HIM.
YOU NEED TO TALK TO HIM, DONALD. HE HAS TO KNOW THAT IT WASN'T HIS FAULT.
WILL YOU STOP THAT?! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL.
TWENTY-THREE PEOPLE *DIED*, WALLY. HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?
WALLY FEELS ANGRY. SAD. JEALOUS.
ANGRY. SEE?
I THINK HE NEEDS THERAPY. HE'S GOT A LOT OF RAGE IN--
NOKNOKNOK!
WHAT NOW?
HI. CAN I HELP YOU?
YES, MY NAME IS COURTNEY JOHNSON, I'M WITH GUEST RELATIONS HERE AT THE FOUR SEASONS. IS MISTER...KAINE... HERE?
UM. MAY I ASK WHAT THIS IS REGARDING?
AS MUCH AS WE'VE APPRECIATED MISTER KAINE'S VERY GENEROUS DONATIONS, I'M AFRAID WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ASK HIM TO CHECK OUT.
WHAT? WHY?
THE AMBASSADOR FROM BELGIUM HAS A RESERVATION FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE MADE MONTHS AGO.
I'M AFRAID HE HAS TO GO.
SON OF A...
DOLLAR!

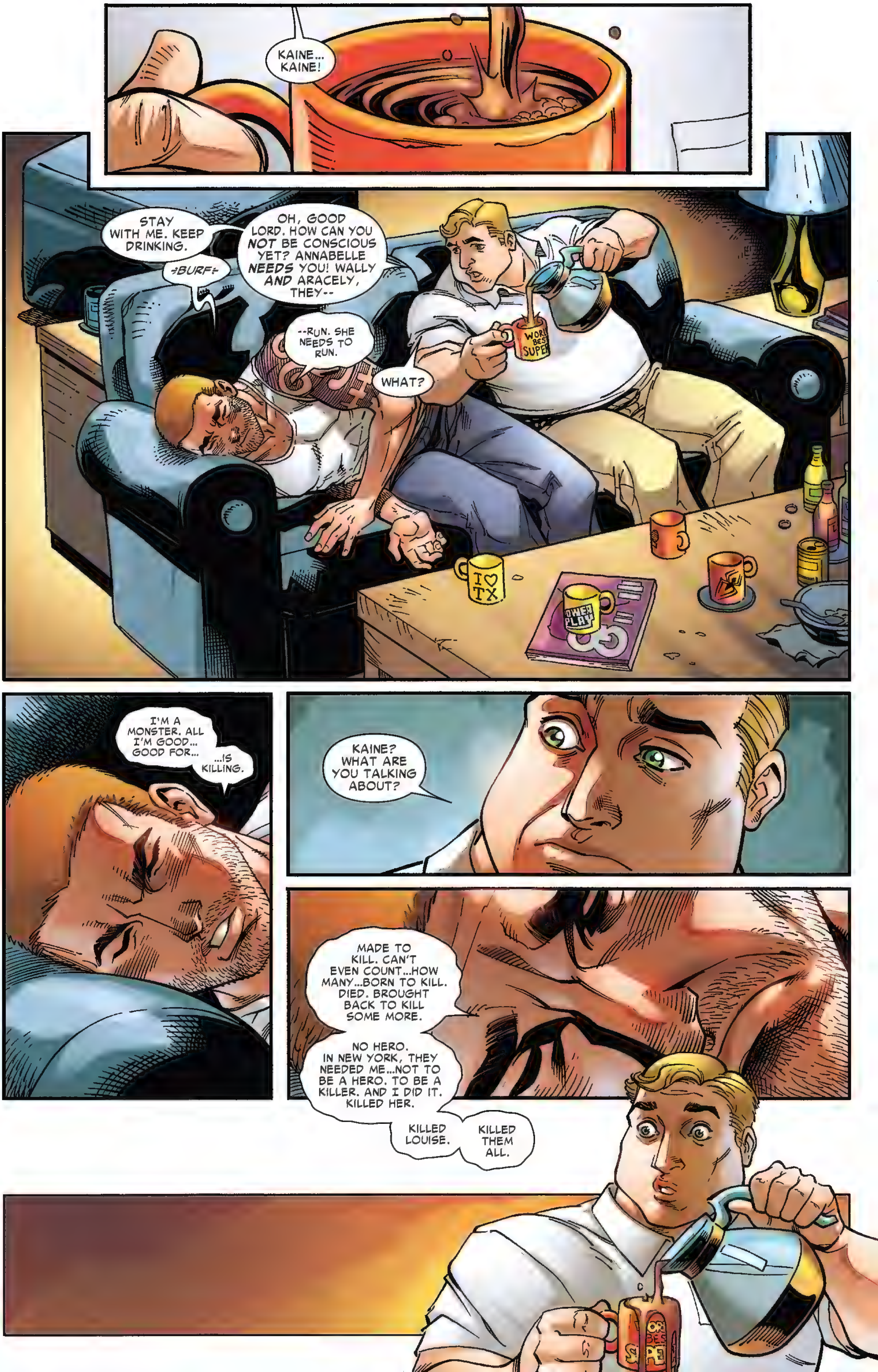

NO. I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU ANYTHING.
WHAT I DO, WHERE I GO, AND WHO I SEE IS NO LONGER ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS.
NO. NO, I--
I'M NOT DOING THIS. YOU CAN'T CALL ME LIKE THIS, I--
EVERYBODY FREEZE!
WHAT IN--?
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA!
DOWN ON THE GROUND, ALL OF YOU!
DO WHAT I SAY, AND NO ONE DIES!
I HAVE TO GO. I HAVE TO MAKE A CALL.
YES, TO ANOTHER MAN.

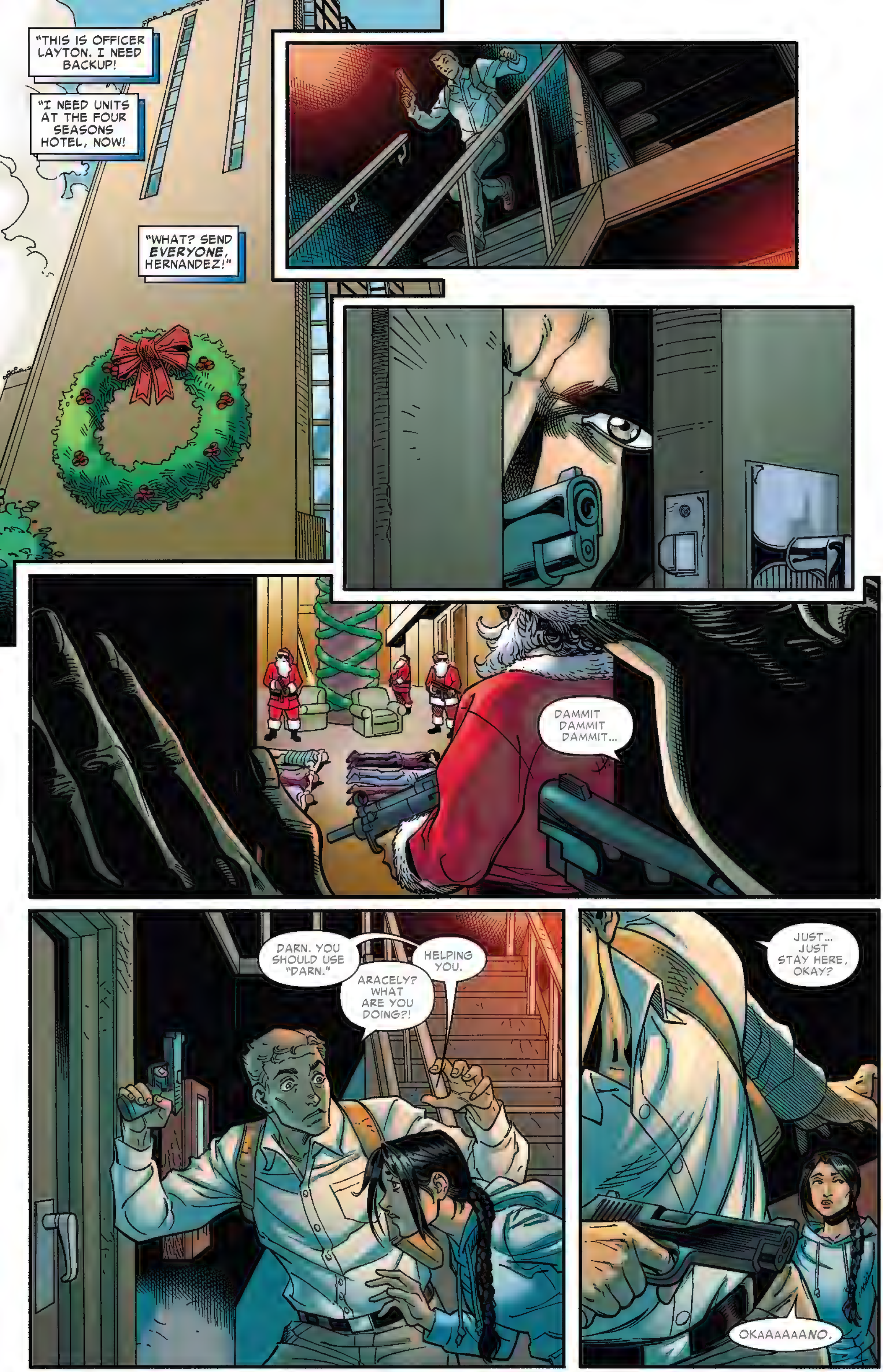

HE'S A LOT HEAVIER THAN HE LOOKS.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? THIS IS JUST GOING TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM TO LEAVE.
PLUS, HE REALLY, REALLY LOVES THE ROOM SERVICE.
I WILL MISS THE SPA. THEY PUT CUCUMBERS ON YOUR EYES.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH HIS MASK?
HIS COSTUME HEALS.
YOU THINK REALLY HARD...
...AND IT'S ALL BETTER!
...THAT'S MESSED UP. HOW CAN IT DO THAT?
I'M JUST SAYING, WHERE DOES HE GET SOMETHING LIKE THAT? WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT KAINE...WHO HE IS, WHERE HE'S FROM... NOTHING.
HE'S A SUPER HERO, THEY PROBABLY HAVE HORIZON TECHNOLOGY WE'VE NEVER HEARD OF. BESIDES, DID YOU THINK HE COULD SEW?
WE KNOW *EVERYTHING* ABOUT KAINE.
BRRRING!
I'LL GET IT.
IT'S ANNABELLE. SHE'S SCARED. I CAN FEEL HER ALL THE WAY FROM UP HERE.
WHAT?
ANNABELLE? WHAT ARE YOU--
...
...
OH, POOP.

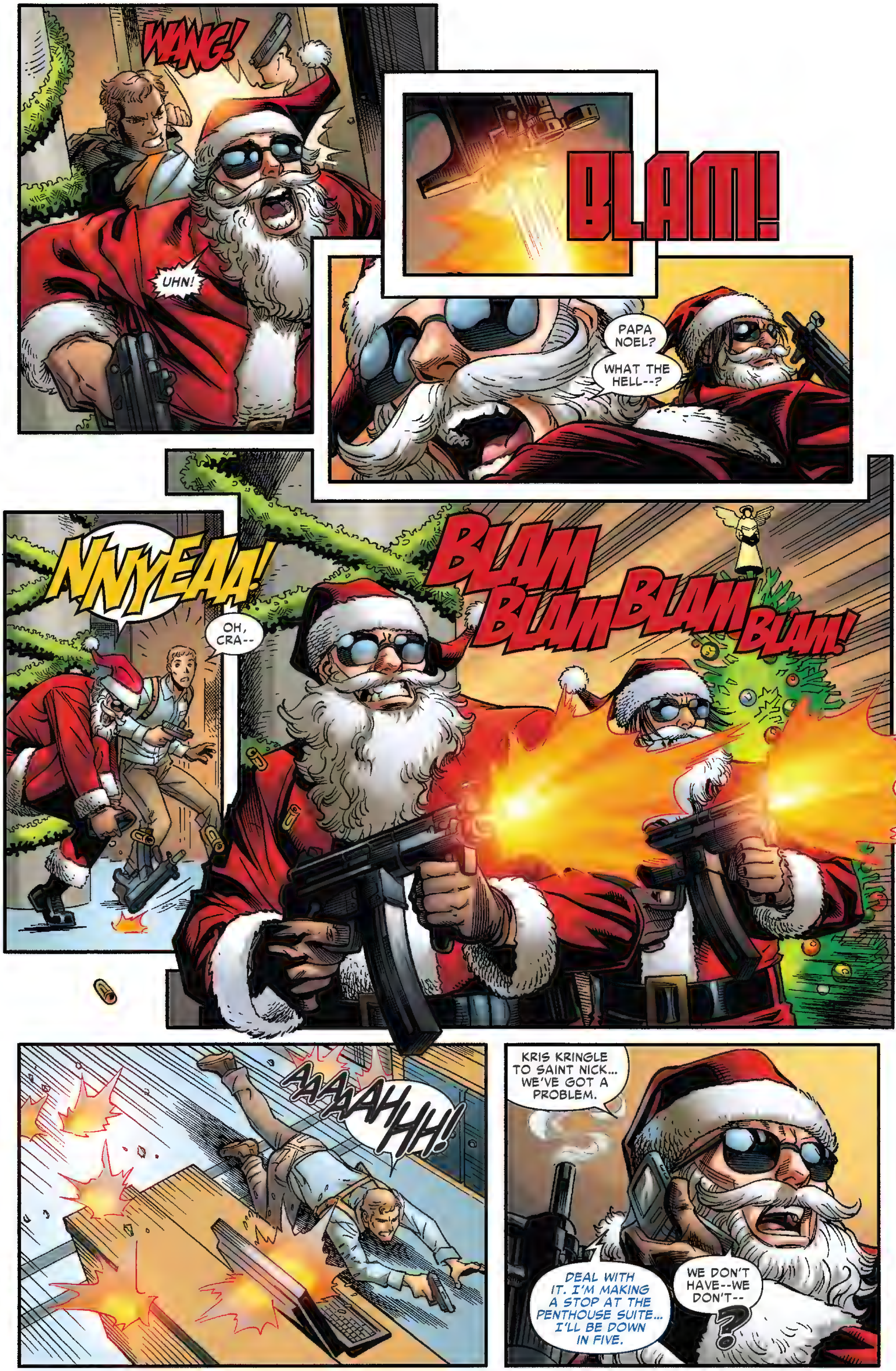

WHERE'S THE VAULT?!
TELL ME WHERE IT IS!
HNNN!
"NOBODY'S COMING IN OR OUT!
"NOBODY'S COMING TO SAVE YOU!
"YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME? YOU WANT TO BE A HERO?
"HEROES GET SHOT!"
MERRY Chris
I KNOW WHAT'LL HELP. LET'S FIND A VOLUNTEER.
SOMEONE PRETTY, TO SHOOT IN THE FACE RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU. A LITTLE INCENTIVE.
HOW 'BOUT THIS ONE?
... I'M REALLY NOT THAT PRETTY.

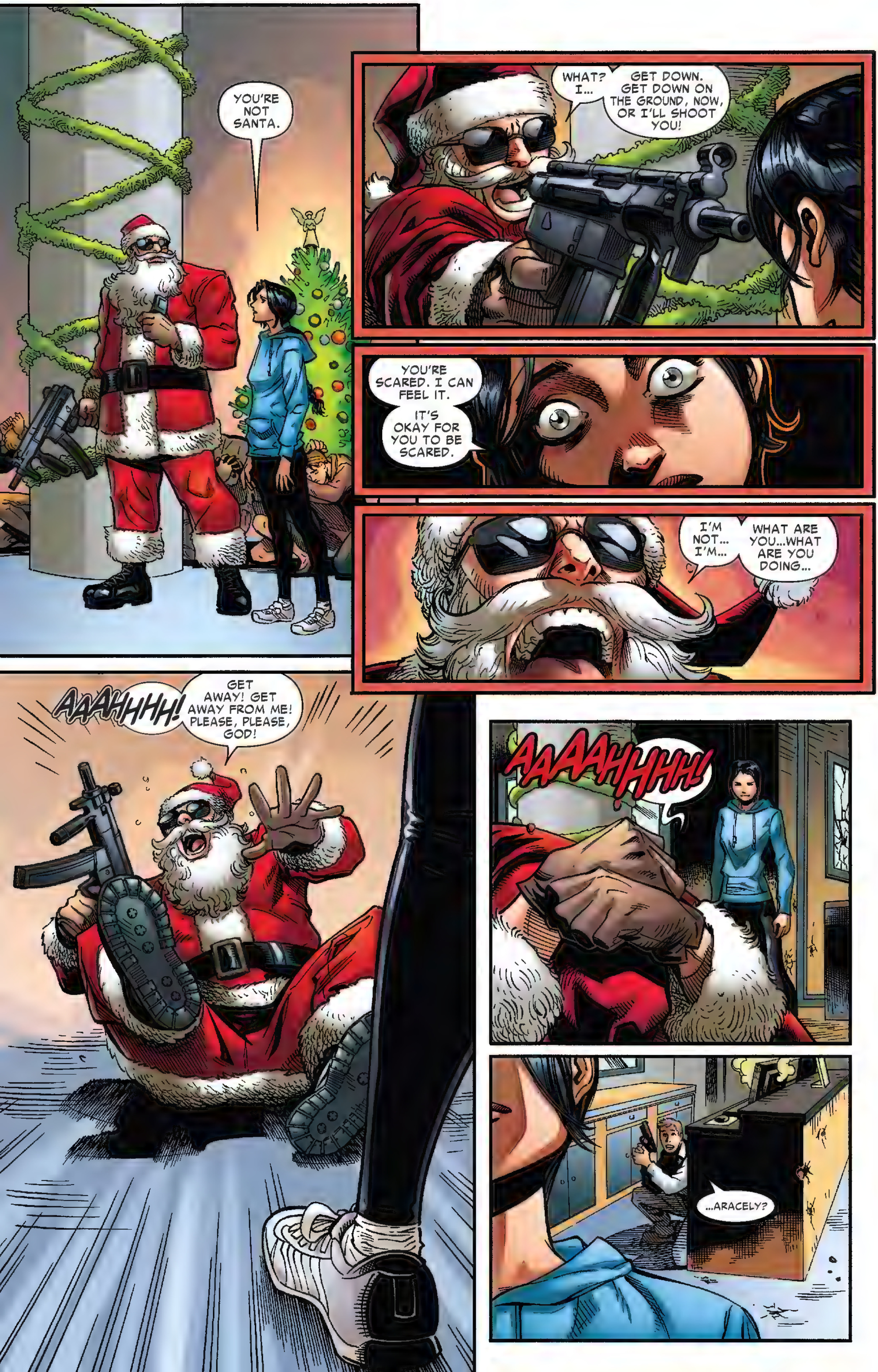

WAKE! UP!
WAKE! UP!
WAKE! UP!
WE HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE!
I AM THE POLICE!
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN! ANNABELLE ISN'T ANSWERING, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE.
I'M GOING DOWN THERE *BECAUSE* SHE ISN'T ANSWERING.
I HAVE TO DO *SOMETHING*.
WALLY...BE CAREFUL.
I'LL BE CAREFUL, TOO!
ARACELY, WAIT!
ZZNNNNRRRX...
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?

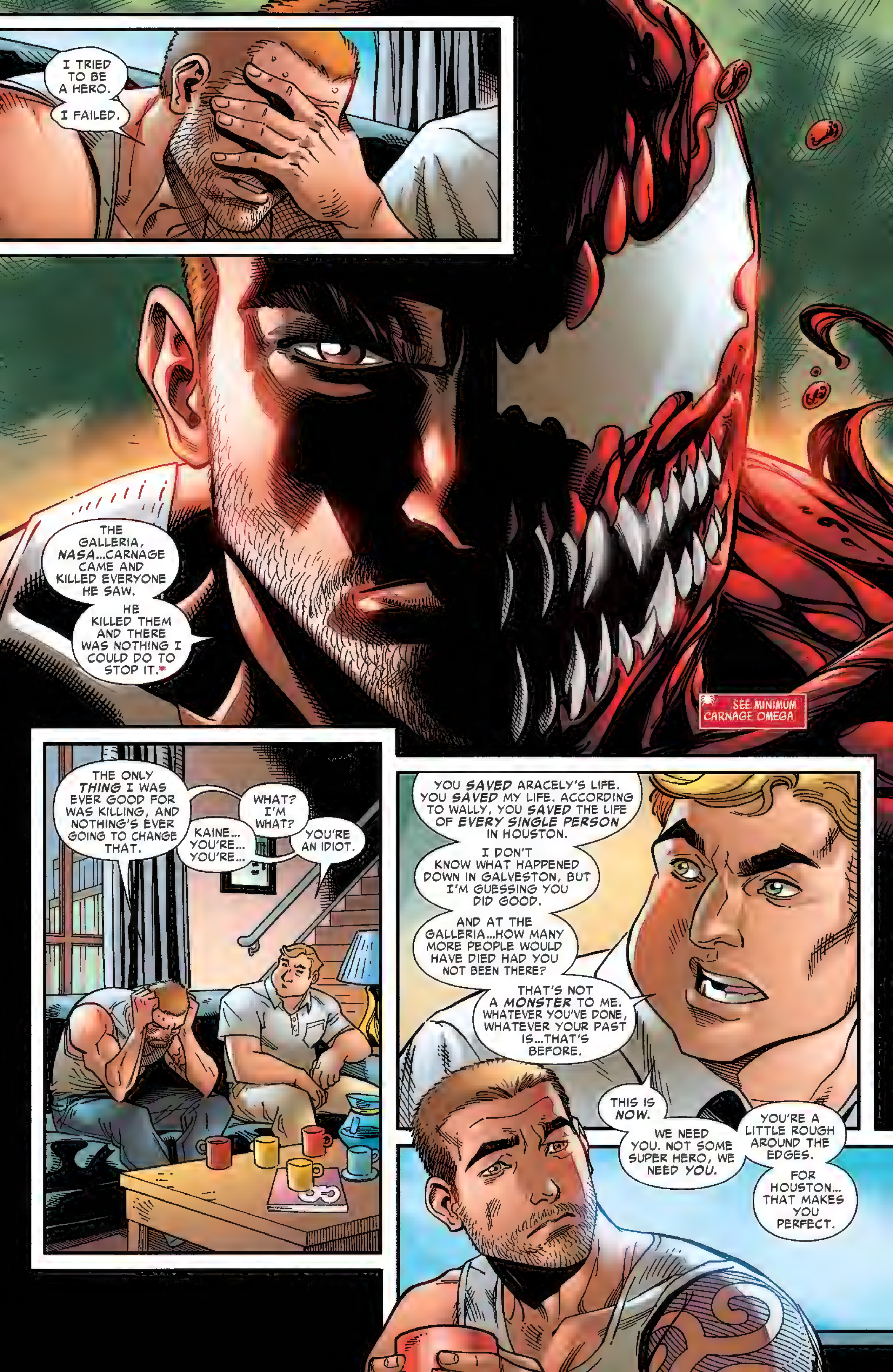

COME ON, DAVE!
I'M...I'M TRYING, BUT IT'S ON A TIME LOCK--
TIME LOCK? YOU THINK I'M STUPID?
YOU'RE TRYING TO GET THIS GIRL *KILLED*, IS WHAT I THINK.
NO, PLEASE, I SWEAR...I CAN'T OPEN IT...
ARE YOU KIDDING ME, DAVE?!
HE'S GOT A GUN IN MY FACE, AND THE HOTEL IS INSURED! OPEN THE GODDAMN SAFE!
ANNABELLE--
OKAY... OKAY, JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE.
...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE AFTER, MISTER, BUT IF YOU WANT SOME *REAL* MONEY, YOU'RE IN THE *WRONG* PLACE.
ONE OF THE GUESTS... HE'S GOT CASH. A *LOT* OF IT.
ANNABELLE, HUH? SO WHO IS THIS *GUEST* OF YOURS?
THE MAN IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE.

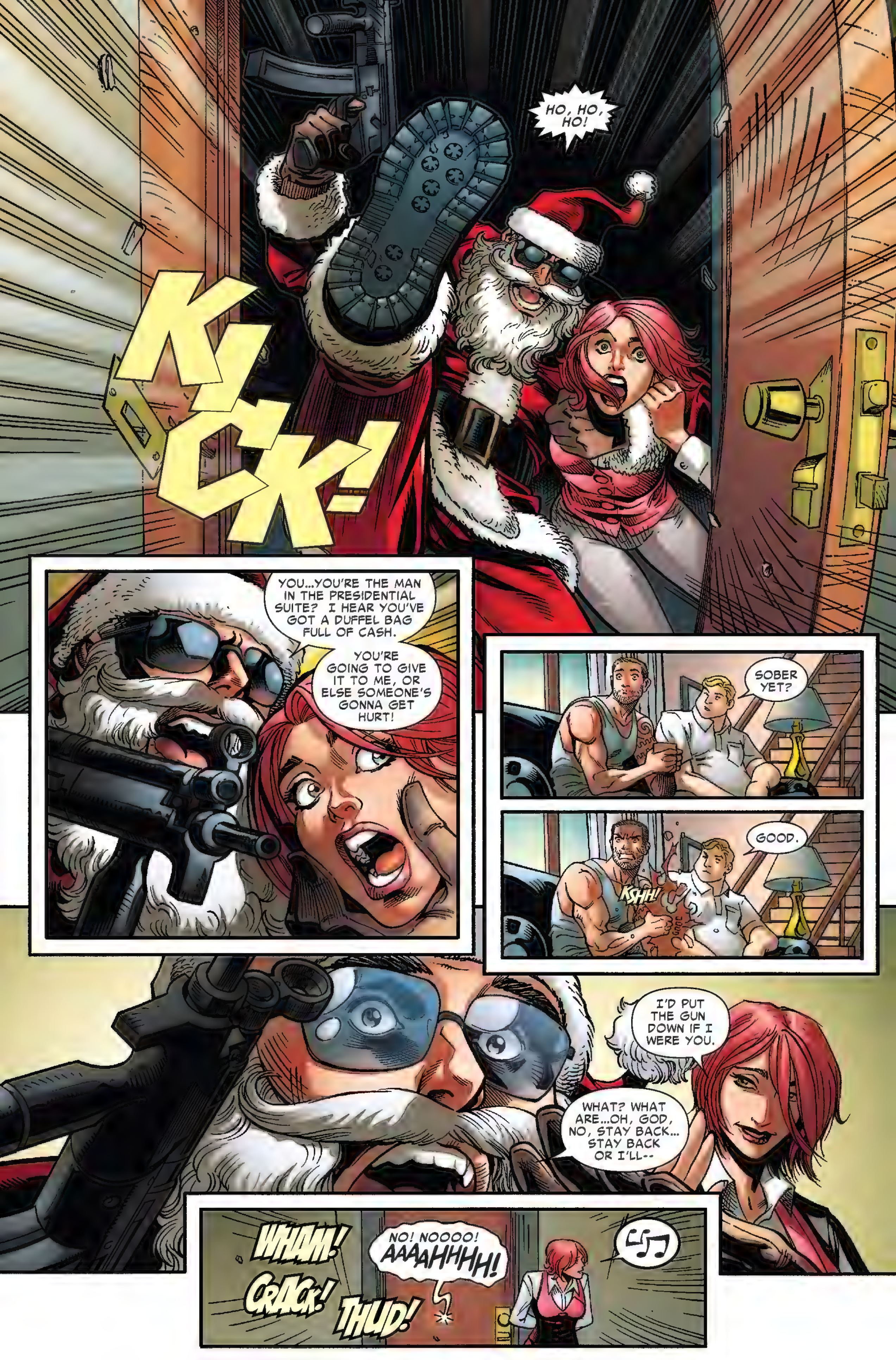

KAINE... KAINE!
STAY WITH ME. KEEP DRINKING.
⇒BURF⇐
OH, GOOD LORD. HOW CAN YOU *NOT* BE CONSCIOUS YET? ANNABELLE *NEEDS* YOU! WALLY *AND* ARACELY, THEY--
--RUN. SHE NEEDS TO RUN.
WHAT?
I ♥ TX
I'M A MONSTER. ALL I'M GOOD... GOOD FOR...
...IS KILLING.
KAINE? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MADE TO KILL. CAN'T EVEN COUNT...HOW MANY...BORN TO KILL. DIED. BROUGHT BACK TO KILL SOME MORE.
NO HERO. IN NEW YORK, THEY NEEDED ME...NOT TO BE A HERO. TO BE A KILLER. AND I DID IT. KILLED HER.
KILLED LOUISE.
KILLED THEM ALL.

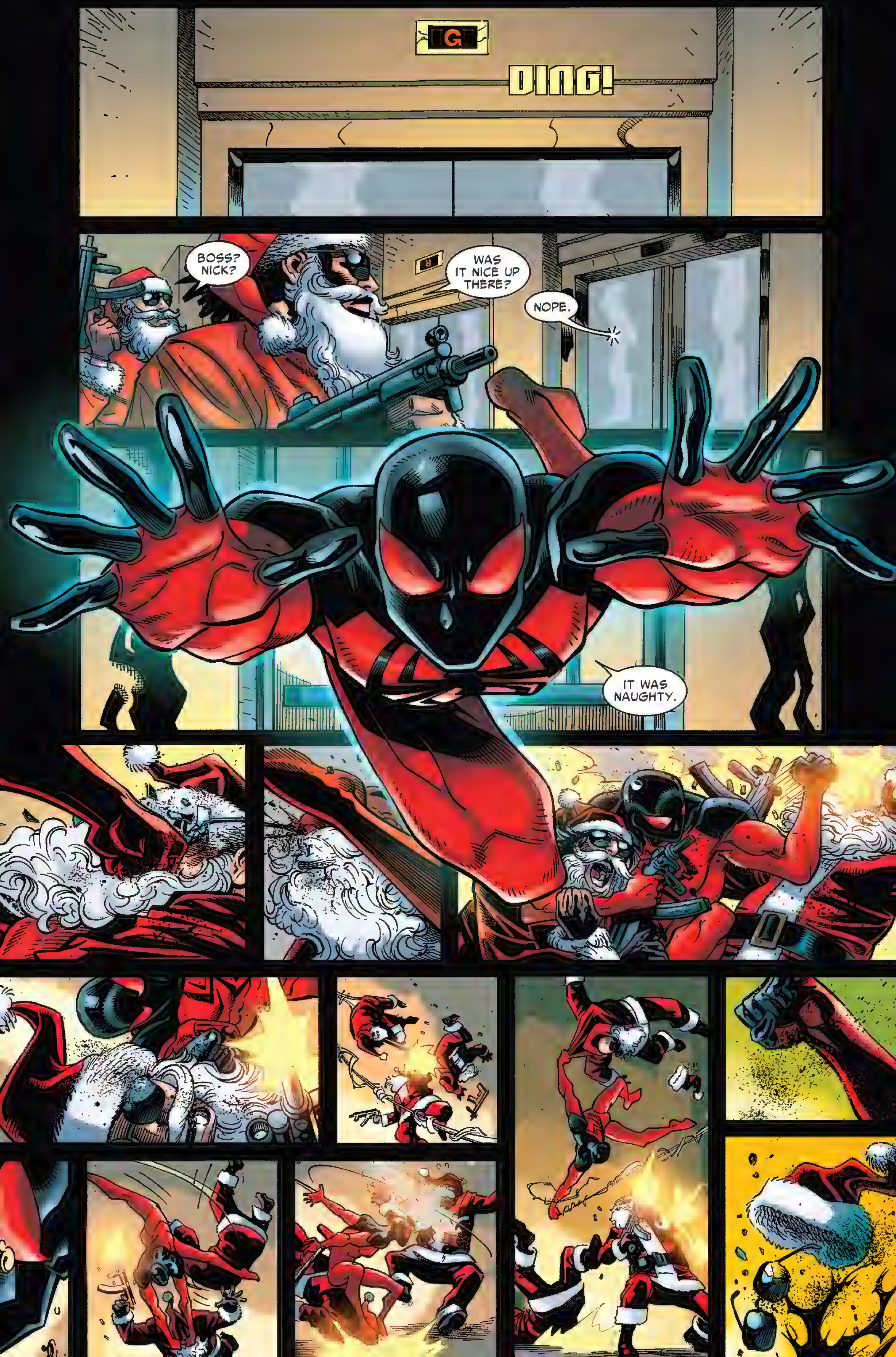

"THIS IS OFFICER LAYTON. I NEED BACKUP!
"I NEED UNITS AT THE FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, NOW!
"WHAT? SEND ***EVERYONE***, HERNANDEZ!"
DAMMIT DAMMIT DAMMIT...
DARN. YOU SHOULD USE "DARN."
ARACELY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HELPING YOU.
JUST... JUST STAY HERE, OKAY?
OKAAAAAANO.

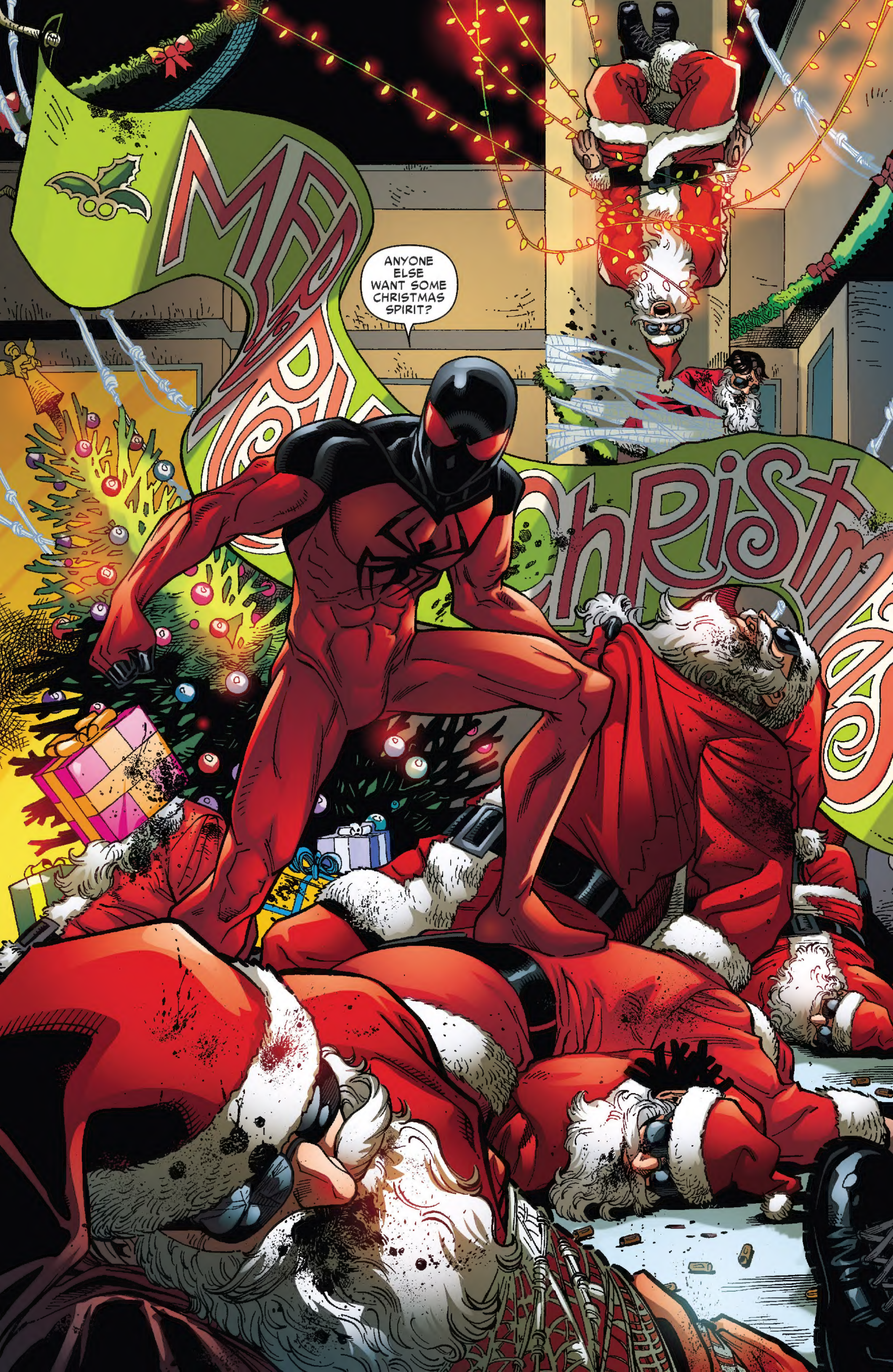

WANG!
UHN!
BLAM!
PAPA NOEL?
WHAT THE HELL--?
NNYEAA!
OH, CRA--
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM!
AAAAAHHH!
KRIS KRINGLE TO SAINT NICK... WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM.
DEAL WITH IT. I'M MAKING A STOP AT THE PENTHOUSE SUITE... I'LL BE DOWN IN FIVE.
WE DON'T HAVE--WE DON'T--
?

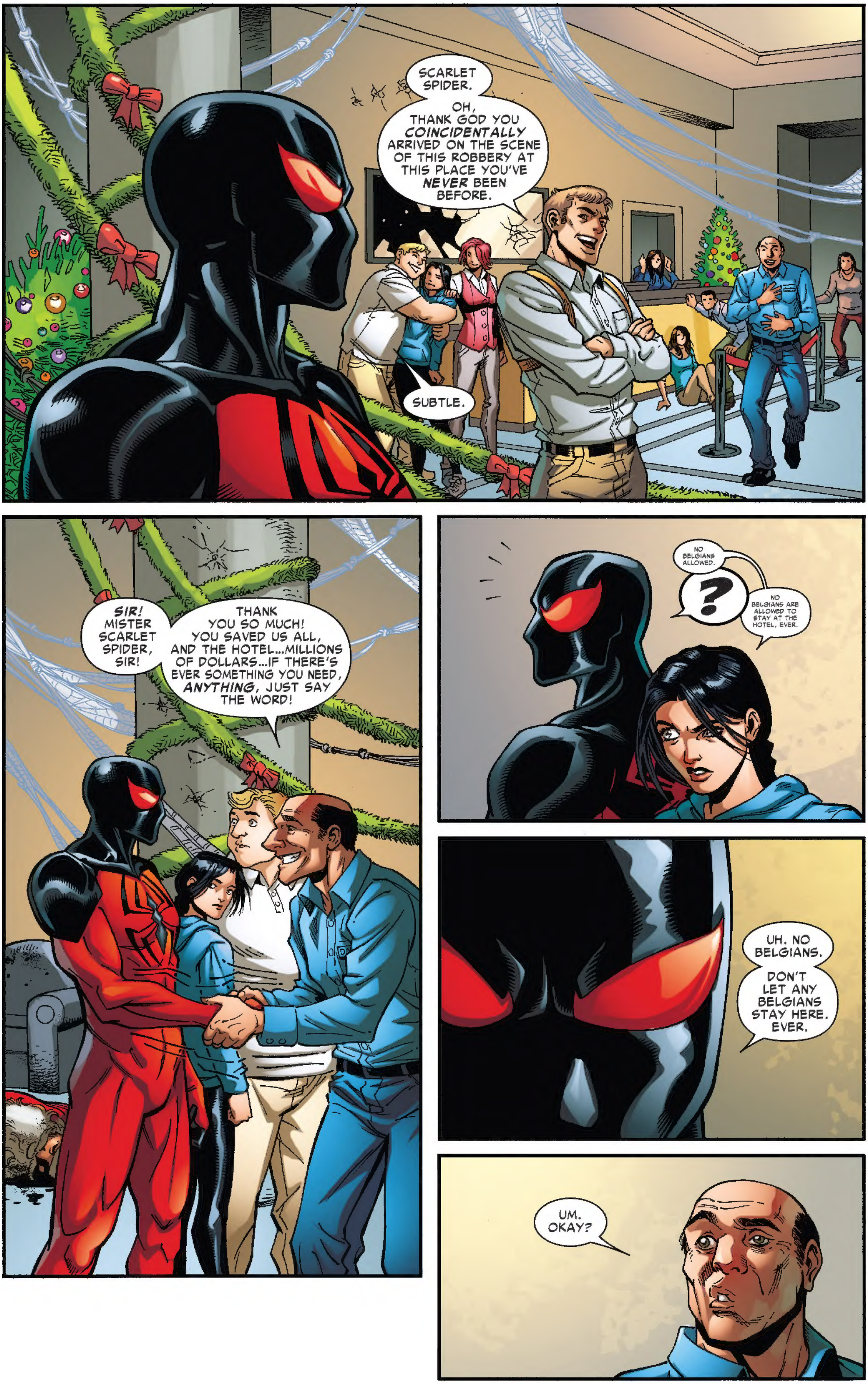

YOU'RE NOT SANTA.
WHAT? I...
GET DOWN. GET DOWN ON THE GROUND, NOW, OR I'LL SHOOT YOU!
YOU'RE SCARED. I CAN FEEL IT.
IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO BE SCARED.
I'M NOT... I'M...
WHAT ARE YOU...WHAT ARE YOU DOING...
AAAHHHH!
GET AWAY! GET AWAY FROM ME! PLEASE, PLEASE, GOD!
AAAAHHHH!
...ARACELY?

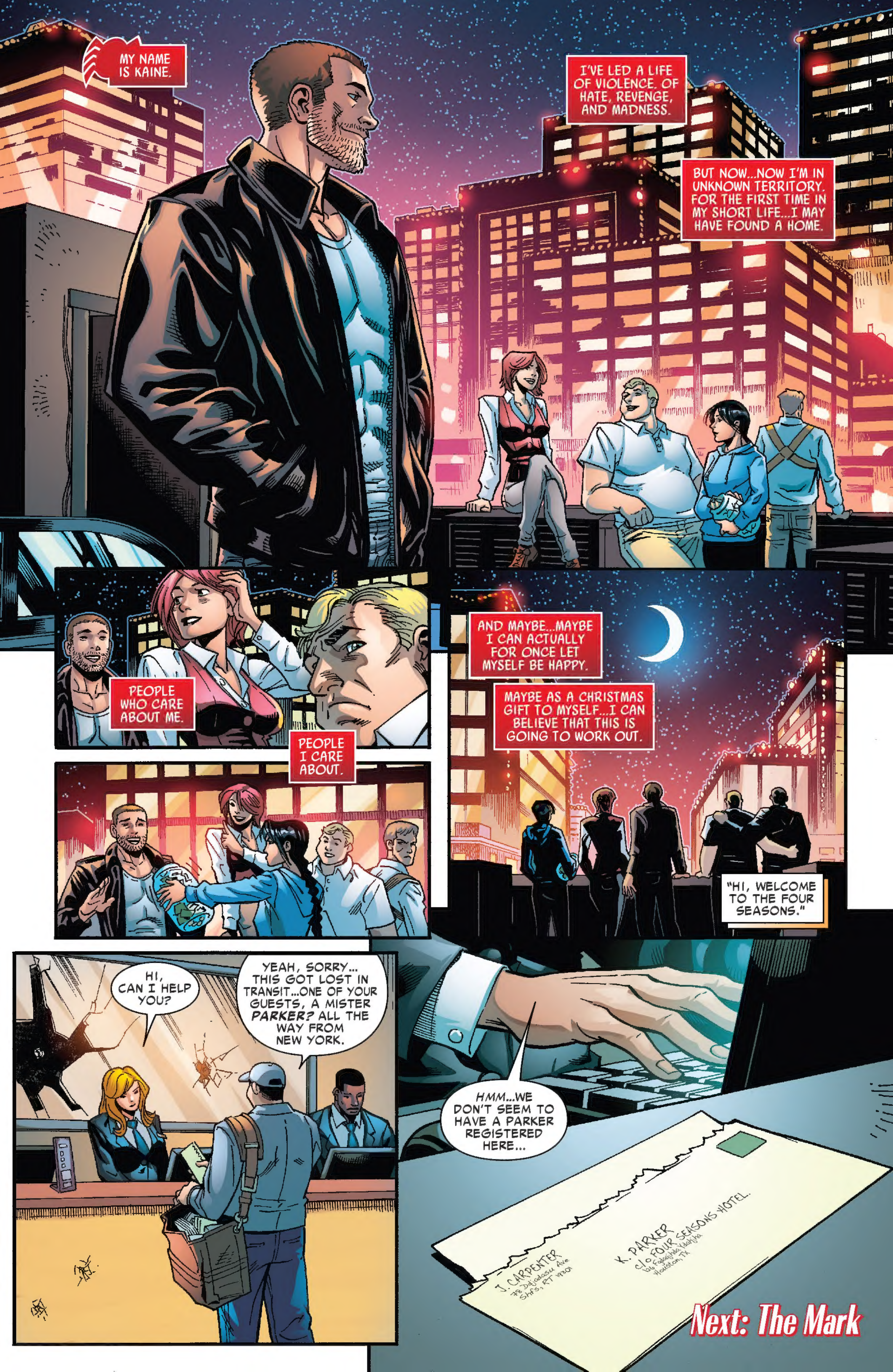

I TRIED TO BE A HERO.
I FAILED.
THE GALLERIA, *NASA*...CARNAGE CAME AND KILLED EVERYONE HE SAW.
HE KILLED THEM AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO TO STOP IT.*
* SEE MINIMUM CARNAGE OMEGA
THE ONLY *THING* I WAS EVER GOOD FOR WAS KILLING, AND NOTHING'S EVER GOING TO CHANGE THAT.
KAINE... YOU'RE... YOU'RE...
WHAT? I'M WHAT?
YOU'RE AN IDIOT.
YOU *SAVED* ARACELY'S LIFE. YOU *SAVED* MY LIFE. ACCORDING TO WALLY, YOU *SAVED* THE LIFE OF *EVERY SINGLE PERSON* IN HOUSTON.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED DOWN IN GALVESTON, BUT I'M GUESSING YOU DID GOOD.
AND AT THE GALLERIA...HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE DIED HAD YOU NOT BEEN THERE?
THAT'S NOT A *MONSTER* TO ME. WHATEVER YOU'VE DONE, WHATEVER YOUR PAST IS...THAT'S BEFORE.
THIS IS *NOW*.
WE NEED YOU. NOT SOME SUPER HERO, WE NEED *YOU*.
YOU'RE A LITTLE ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES.
FOR HOUSTON... THAT MAKES YOU PERFECT.


HO, HO, HO!
KICK!
YOU...YOU'RE THE MAN IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE? I HEAR YOU'VE GOT A DUFFEL BAG FULL OF CASH.
YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE IT TO ME, OR ELSE SOMEONE'S GONNA GET HURT!
SOBER YET?
KSHH!
GOOD.
I'D PUT THE GUN DOWN IF I WERE YOU.
WHAT? WHAT ARE...OH, GOD, NO, STAY BACK... STAY BACK OR I'LL--
WHAM!
CRACK!
THUD!
NO! NOOOO! AAAAHHHH!
♫


G
DING!
BOSS? NICK?
WAS IT NICE UP THERE?
NOPE.
IT WAS NAUGHTY.


MERRY
CHRISTMAS
ANYONE ELSE WANT SOME CHRISTMAS SPIRIT?


SCARLET SPIDER.
OH, THANK GOD YOU *COINCIDENTALLY* ARRIVED ON THE SCENE OF THIS ROBBERY AT THIS PLACE YOU'VE *NEVER* BEEN BEFORE.
SUBTLE.
SIR! MISTER SCARLET SPIDER, SIR!
THANK YOU SO MUCH! YOU SAVED US ALL, AND THE HOTEL...MILLIONS OF DOLLARS...IF THERE'S EVER SOMETHING YOU NEED, *ANYTHING*, JUST SAY THE WORD!
NO BELGIANS ALLOWED.
?
NO BELGIANS ARE ALLOWED TO STAY AT THE HOTEL, EVER.
UH. NO BELGIANS.
DON'T LET ANY BELGIANS STAY HERE. EVER.
UM. OKAY?


MY NAME IS KAINE.
I'VE LED A LIFE OF VIOLENCE. OF HATE, REVENGE, AND MADNESS.
BUT NOW...NOW I'M IN UNKNOWN TERRITORY. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY SHORT LIFE...I MAY HAVE FOUND A HOME.
PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT ME.
PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT.
AND MAYBE...MAYBE I CAN ACTUALLY FOR ONCE LET MYSELF BE HAPPY.
MAYBE AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO MYSELF...I CAN BELIEVE THAT THIS IS GOING TO WORK OUT.
"HI, WELCOME TO THE FOUR SEASONS."
HI, CAN I HELP YOU?
YEAH, SORRY... THIS GOT LOST IN TRANSIT...ONE OF YOUR GUESTS, A MISTER PARKER? ALL THE WAY FROM NEW YORK.
HMM...WE DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A PARKER REGISTERED HERE...
J. CARPENTER
78 Ddjadasu Ave
Shfs, RT 19301
K. PARKER
c/o FOUR SEASONS HOTEL.
126 Fadagjhda Ydahjha
Houston, TX
Next: The Mark

BIGGER AIN'T NECESSARILY BETTER!

When the vicious symbiote Carnage escapes captivity, its host — serial killer Cletus Kasady — finds a whole new world to terrorize. Stranded in the Microverse, Scarlet Spider and Venom collide in a hunt for the dangerous alien parasite that takes their tortured souls to depths even they can't fathom. Both tormented heroes must face the demons within before taking on the monster without — but with Carnage pulling the strings, they'll have to keep from killing each other first!

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> **"CARNAGE HAS NEVER LOOKED BETTER. AND BY THAT I MEAN HE'S NEVER LOOKED MORE DISGUSTING, INSANE AND LETHAL."**
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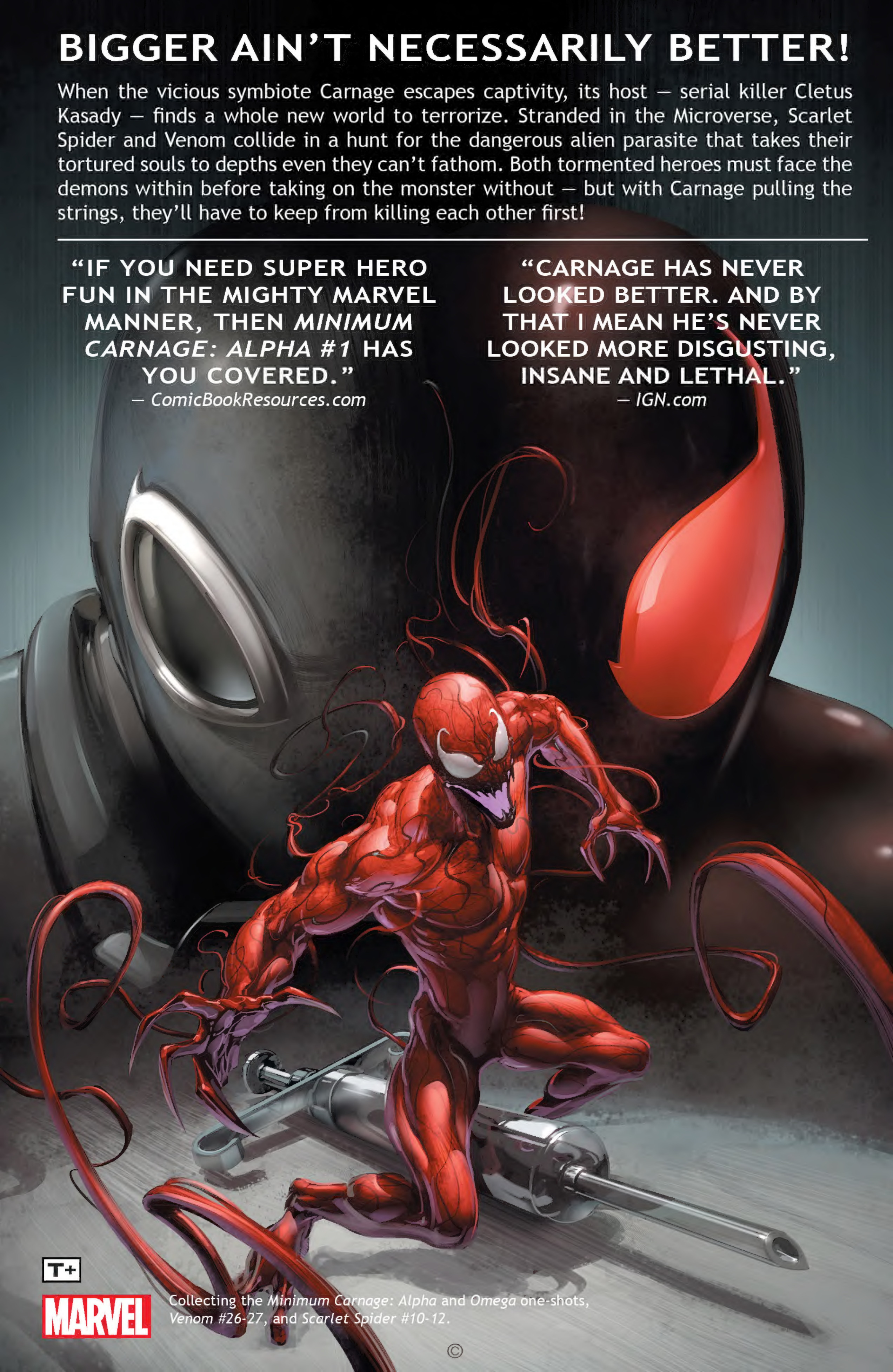

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Collecting the *Minimum Carnage: Alpha* and *Omega* one-shots, *Venom* #26-27, and *Scarlet Spider* #10-12.

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